

قناة العالم

Peres expected shortly in Paris

PARIS (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is expected in France shortly for talks on the Middle East peace process, diplomatic sources said Wednesday. They said the visit could take place before the end of the month. French officials, who said Foreign Minister Roland Dumas spoke to Mr. Peres by telephone over the past few days, declined immediate comment. Mr. Peres is a personal friend of President Francois Mitterrand whom he has known for decades in the framework of Socialist International. French government spokesman Martin Malvy told reporters France supported the peacemaking efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and "hoped both Arabs and Israelis would agree to the necessary sacrifices and concessions that will lead to a just and durable peace. The language of Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin is clearly different from that of predecessor." Diplomatic sources said a Peres visit would probably aim at enlisting the support of France, a key European Community (EC) member, in swinging the EC behind moves towards Middle East peace.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

Volume 17 Number 5060

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 23-24, 1992, MUHAREM 22-23, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Senate meets today on law on parties

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi has called the Senate for a meeting on Thursday to discuss its Law Committee's decision on the political parties draft law. The committee, which met July 18, 20 and 21, decided to amend article 14, 16 and 21 of the draft law which was approved by the Lower House recently. Following heated debate, the committee decided to approve articles 14 and 16 as they were referred from the House, but introduced amendments to article 21.

Iran soon to return planes to Kuwait

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran will soon return to Kuwait six passenger planes flown by Iraqi pilots to Tehran for safety shortly after the Gulf war began, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday. The news agency said the announcement came from Iran's embassy in Kuwait. The six Airbus planes have been parked in Iran since January 1991. At first, Iran said it would return the planes to Iraq when the fighting stopped, but later discovered the aircraft belonged to Kuwait. IRNA said Iranian and Kuwaiti officials "have since discussed dues to Iran for parking and maintenance services to the Kuwaiti planes but failed to reach an agreement on the charges payable to Iran." The initial Iranian request was once reported to be \$87 million. Iran's embassy in Kuwait announced Wednesday that despite disagreement on the charges, Tehran had decided to return the Airbus and continue negotiations, the news agency said.

Kuwait debates security, council delays search law

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has delayed the approval of a controversial law giving police wide powers to search for illegal weapons as the debate on how to halt a wave of violent attacks in the oil-rich emirate goes on. The wave of attacks, which began earlier this year, has prompted the government to say security is its top priority. Kuwait announced earlier this week it had uncovered an Iraq-backed sabotage ring, but public figures and media commentators say the widespread ownership of illegal weapons lies behind the violence. A heated debate in the Kuwaiti National Council on Tuesday showed no clear consensus on how to tackle the issue.

Pakistan, India put ties back on track

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and India have set new dates for a series of high-level official talks derailed in May by a spy scandal, a government spokesman said on Wednesday. Top foreign ministry officials are due to meet in New Delhi for two days from Aug. 18. India, infuriated by the alleged abduction and torture of an Indian diplomat in Islamabad, scrapped talks scheduled for the first week of June and expelled two Pakistani envoys for alleged spying. Relations between the neighboring neighbors were patched over by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and India's Narasimha Rao in talks at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit last month.

Iran confers doctorate on Mandela

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Wednesday conferred an honorary doctorate degree on Nelson Mandela, the first non-Iranian thus honored by the Islamic Republic. The broadcast said the degree recognized Mr. Mandela's struggle for blacks in South Africa, and his fight against racism. The political science degree, awarded by Tehran University, was the first honorary degree to a non-Iranian since the 1979 Islamic revolution, the television reported. Also Wednesday, Mr. Mandela met with Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and said the Iranian revolution had brought much hope for the uprising of the people of South Africa against injustice.

Baker sees 'severe cut' in settlement; Israel announces more curbs

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF State James Baker said on Wednesday he was satisfied Israel would make a "severe and substantial reduction in settlement activity" in the occupied territories.

Mr. Baker's comments were accompanied by an announcement by the Israeli housing ministry of a freeze on building starts throughout Israel and in the occupied territories.

The housing minister has ordered to freeze construction in which contracts have already been signed and construction has not yet begun, a spokeswoman for housing Minister Binjamin Ben Eliezer said. She called the freeze an interim step.

Earlier interim moves suspended the signing of building contracts and new settlements approved by past governments but not yet established. The spokeswoman said the ministry still did not know exactly how many contracts would be affected by the latest move. A more detailed government programme is expected on Thursday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who took office last week vowing to accelerate Middle East peace talks, hopes to win Israel \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees denied the former hardline government when it refused Washington's demand to halt settlement activity.

Mr. Baker told a news conference

after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"I am really very satisfied with the philosophy and the orientation of this new government of Israel towards the question of settlements and I am satisfied that you are going to see a severe and substantial reduction in settlement activity."

He added: "All of the details are still to be worked out, or let me put it this way, all have not been worked out. Some have."

Arabs and the United States regard the settlements as the biggest obstacle to progress in peace talks which began last October.

Arabs have demanded a total freeze on all settlement activity but Mr. Baker's comments suggested Israel might be offering slightly less.

An Israeli diplomat in Cairo, who had not yet been briefed on all points discussed by Mr. Rabin and Mr. Mubarak in private talks on Tuesday, said he thought it was unlikely a freeze would cover settlements in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Baker would not confirm reports that in return for a freeze, the United States would grant Mr. Rabin's government billions of dollars in loan guarantees denied to its right-wing predecessor.

He said the matter was still under discussion and would be considered when Mr. Rabin met U.S. President George Bush in August.

Mr. Baker shuttled between Syria and Egypt Wednesday.

He met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharras, flew to Cairo and

saw President Mubarak, and returned to northern Syria later in the day for a postponed meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Baker was due to meet Mr. Assad at his home village of Qardaha in the northern Syrian mountains. The Syrian president went there for the funeral of his mother, forcing the delay in the meeting.

Syrian media Wednesday urged Washington to stand firm on withholding the loan guarantees sought by Israel.

The official press said Mr. Rabin's order limiting Jewish settlement was not enough.

"Rabin's decision on settlements does not at all mean halting the building of settlements. It is a mere manoeuvre to win world public opinion and get what he wants from American especially the bank guarantees," said Al Bash.

The chief Palestinian negotiator in the peace talks, Haidar Abdel Shafi, told Reuters in Amman: "We have warned against providing Israel with the loan guarantees because this harms the peace process."

"As Palestinians we are determined to give the peace process a chance and the most important step is to stop all settlement activities on the ground, not in the form of promises and half promises," he said.

Mr. Mubarak, giving the news conference jointly with Mr. Baker, was asked whether the action Mr. Rabin

ordered limiting Jewish settlement was not enough.

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Israel pledges halt to settlement building, Jordanian officials say

By Rania Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Israel has promised Washington it would halt all settlements in the occupied territories in exchange for billions of dollars in U.S. loan guarantees, a senior Jordanian official said on Wednesday.

"What was conveyed to us by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is that the Israeli government is willing to halt all settlements," the official said of Tuesday's meeting in Amman between Mr. Baker and King Hussein.

The pledge would appear to include what Israel refers to as "security settlements" in addition to "political settlements" on which they have halted new building.

It also aims at building confidence with Israel's Arab enemies in the U.S.-brokered peace process. "Our position is that we need to see proof of that... that we need to see that happening before we can believe it," the official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

An Egyptian official in Cairo hinted strongly that Israel's new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, made a similar promise of a settlement freeze when he met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday.

Asked whether Mr. Rabin had offered a total freeze for the duration of peace talks, the official said this was not too strong an interpretation.

He recalled that even the Likud government of late Prime Minister Menachem Begin had agreed to a three-month settlement freeze at one point during peace talks with Egypt a decade ago.

The official said Mr. Rabin "gave a very clear indication of his intentions."

He said that he was going to do anything for the sake of peace as long as it does not touch on the security of Israel. This message was clear.

The Jordanian official said Jordan expressed worries about American plans to grant Israel billions of dollars in loan guarantees to help absorb tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants in Israel.

"Of course we did express our concern and we said we think we need more convincing arguments (assurances) concerning the termination of settlement building in the occupied territories, which is also the position of the United States," he added.

A senior Jordanian peace negotiator said Mr. Baker had presented a suggestion, apparently from Israel, that the next round of talks convene in Washington instead of Rome some time in August.

He said the issue would be discussed at Friday's coordination meeting in Damascus of the Arab parties involved in Middle East peace talks.

The Jordanian official said, "The Americans do not mind either way and we do not mind but we have to come to an agreement among ourselves (the Arabs)."

Mr. Baker told reporters in Amman that the United States saw no difference between "security" and "political" settlements and believed both were an obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace.

Mr. Baker, touring the region to revive the stalled peace talks, also said Mr. Rabin's new Labour-led government, like Jordan and the Palestinians, seemed ready to seize a fresh chance for peace.

(Continued on page 5)

Peace Now urges total freeze of settlement

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli peace activists called Wednesday for a total freeze on the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, saying it would help the Middle East peace process and Israel's economy.

The call by Peace Now, Israel's largest peace lobby, came as the new government of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin has taken steps to temporarily halt building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip while it reviews contracts.

"The movement believes that a total freeze in construction and land leveling is necessary for economic and political reasons," the group's statement said.

It said such a freeze would show Israel's aspiration for peace and security in Israeli-Arab peace talks.

The group estimated that Israel could save 500 million shekels (\$208 million) if it stops construction and pays off contractors rather than competing houses in progress.

Peace Now's appeal came as the group's settlement watch committee issued a report saying 10,443 housing units currently are under construction in the occupied territories.

The figures include 470 for which foundations have been laid, 1,958 with preliminary internal work and 3,891 in final stages.

(Continued on page 5)

Lebanese Christian party fails to join protest strike

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's largest Christian political party refrained on Wednesday from joining Christian calls for a general strike against government plans for a general election before Syrian troops pull back to eastern Lebanon.

But Falange party leaders urged President Elias Hrawi's Syrian-backed government to work to resolve objections from opponents of the polls before setting a date for the election.

The Falange said it understood the reasons behind the calls for a one-day general strike on Thursday but wanted the stoppage to be peaceful. But it stopped short of urging its supporters to join the protest.

The cabinet was due later on Wednesday to discuss possible dates for the elections, which are widely expected to be set in three stages for different parts of the country from Aug. 23 to Sept. 6. The Christian Lebanese Forces

(LF) movement, which was the most powerful militia in Lebanon until private armies were disbanded last year, heads the opposition to holding the polls before a Syrian pullback.

Political sources said the Falange's failure to join the strike was a severe blow to the opposition they fear the dispute over the election could turn violent.

Syrian troops are supposed to leave Beirut and other areas in September and redeploy in eastern Lebanon as part of a peace accord aimed at putting a durable end to 15 years of civil war.

Mr. Hrawi and Prime Minister Rashid Solh signed a new electoral law on Wednesday, clearing the way for the election.

LF leader Samir Geagea, former President Amin Gemayel, supporters of exiled General Michel Aoun and other Christian parties called on Monday for the strike.

Housing financiers in straits, seek CBJ help

By Narmeen Marad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Real Estate Financing Corporation (REFCO), one of largest housing institutions in Jordan, is grappling with a liquidity problem and has sought the help of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to ease its financial straits.

According to informed banking sources, REFCO is in the process of restructuring its capital before it invites investors to join the corporation or change its operations to become a banking institution not tied to real estate transactions.

CBJ is waiting for the results of the restructuring before it would consider helping it with an interbank deposit of approximately JD3 million.

According to banking sources, REFCO, a financial company which accepted savings deposits and offered short-term and long-term housing loans, will be then undergoing a change in its operations to become a banking institution in merger with an existing one.

The sources did not reveal which, if any, banks were interested. CBJ has not promised specific amounts to the ailing corporation but has asked it to restructure its capital before "new partners are asked to come into the operation and before CBJ decides on the amount needed to give it a working capital." Independent banking estimate that REFCO would need anything between JD3 and JD5 million.

According to the banking sources, who asked they remain anonymous, CBJ help to the corporation is feasible since REFCO is not suffering a deficit in assets or solvency.

Although there are two schools of thought over how feasible it is usually for the government to help companies to come out of the red with taxpayers' money, economists agree that REFCO is a good case for government intervention.

According to the 1991 annual report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), REFCO did not provide the stock exchange with financial data for 1989 and 1990. The 1988 figures showed that



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday, while on a visit to Um Al Jimal, confers with Sheikh Sweilem Al Safian, who voices the support of the local tribesmen (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Baghdad crisis deepens; U.S. openly threatens military strike

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The standoff between Iraq and the Security Council intensified Wednesday as U.N. weapons inspectors, saying they feared for their safety, ended a 17-day vigil outside a government building in Baghdad.

The pullout from the agriculture ministry, suspected of hiding documents related to Iraq's missile programme, increased the chances of a limited allied air strike in the latest crisis involving the United Nations and Iraqi government.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Iraq was not abiding by U.N. resolutions ending the Gulf war.

"It is stone-walling U.N. inspectors who are trying to identify and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Fitzwater said.

"We are not ruling out any option including the use of military force," he said.

"The Iraqi regime must be held

accountable for its defiance of the U.N. resolutions and for the safety of all U.N. personnel in Iraq, as well as other international personnel providing assistance to the Iraqi people," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Chanting protesters have pelted the inspectors' cars with eggs and vegetables and slashed their tires in demonstrations since July 5, when the Iraqis refused to allow U.N. access to the building.

Baghdad has denied military documents were inside the ministry, which it considers a symbol of its sovereignty. The Iraqi News Agency said Wednesday the incident was engineered by the United States and other members of the Security Council as a pretext to "intervene illegally and achieve their aggressive political objectives."

More demonstrations took place in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities on Wednesday, including U.N. offices in Basra, Amara and

Karbala. The United Nations maintains humanitarian programme in those cities, but an agreement to continue them expired in June and has not been renewed by Iraq.

INA quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying Iraq provided adequate protection to the inspectors "despite the fact that some of the team leaders, especially the Americans, tried to provoke the government staff and citizens."

It denied any team member was harmed.

Western analysts and diplomatic sources said the likelihood of a U.S.-led attack on Iraq is increasing.

"Tension is rising. The likelihood of military action is growing daily," said Heino Kopietz, a senior analyst at Control Risk, a London-based strategic security consultancy.

Multi-pronged contests in the making for Aug. 8 bye-elections

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hotly-contested bye-elections are in the making for the two vacant seats in the Lower House of Parliament. Although official nominations for the Aug. 18 elections in Amman's Fourth and Sixth districts begin Friday, at least seven candidates have already announced their intention to run.

Tribalist, Islamist and pro-establishment figures are among the candidates who will be vying for the votes of about 35,000 each in the two districts.

The Sixth District seat — Qusayrah — and the Fourth District seat — Madaba — were left vacant with the death last month of Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Ahmad Qatish Al Azzahid and Nayef Minwar Hadid respectively.

Mr. Azzahid, a popular Islamist who served as the Brotherhood's spokesman in the House, had secured the highest number of votes in Madaba — 6,534 out of 30,000 cast — during the November 1989 elections. The influence that the

establishment candidate Fawaz Abu Ghannem, who lost his bid for a seat in the House in 1989.

Communist Abdul Halith Shakhaneh, who belongs to a major Madaba tribe that already has one deputy in the Lower House is the third announced candidate so far in Madaba.

Mr. Shakhaneh is related to Madaba's second Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Hafiz Al Allawi and observers say he could receive many votes due to his tribal affiliation. However, sources close to Mr. Shakhaneh say he may withdraw from the race in favour of Mr. Abu Ghannem in return for support in an election bid in November 1993.

The Madaba race is considered a test of the Brotherhood's ability to keep their support after a mixed record in the House since their victory in the 1989 election in which they managed to get 22 seats.

The Madaba race is likely to see more than three candidates after the nomination period begins Friday.

Mr. Hadid was the most popular candidate in the 1989 elections in the fourth district and secured votes far ahead of the second deputy from his district, the Brotherhood's Hameed Mansour. Mr. Hadid had secured 6,438 votes while Mr. Mansour received 4,260.

In Madaba, Mr. Kharabeh will face strong opposition from pro-

establishment candidate Fawaz Abu Ghannem, who lost his bid for a seat in the House in 1989.

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King visits Um Al Jimal

UM AL JIMAL (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited Um Al Jimal, a town near the Syrian border, and was accorded an enthusiastic welcome by its residents.

The townspeople, mostly bedouin, lined up the streets decorated with the King's posters and flags and cheered welcoming the King's visit.

Several notables delivered addresses before the King at the main reception centre, paying tribute to his leadership and pledging continued allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

Among the speakers was Minister of Public Transport Saad Hayel Al Sour, who voiced the support of the local tribesmen and town residents for King Hussein's domestic and foreign policies.

Sheikh Sweilem Al Safian, who spoke on behalf of the tribesmen in the Mafraq and Um Al Jimal areas, thanked the King for the visit and presented a number of demands.

Noting that the border region of Um Al Jimal is located between three Arab states and is a barren land, he said the area faces many hardships. The local inhabitants demand solutions to problems related to land, telephone and postal services for a number of villages, additional number of seats for its students at Jordanian universities and facilities to get loans for agricultural projects, he said.

Um Al Jimal Mayor Abdullah Sour said that the local citizens and farmers had done their best to reclaim semi-desert lands and produce crops, but they were now in urgent need for help to embark on agricultural industry.

The King announced that he had instructed the concerned authorities to build a secondary school to be linked to the cultural department of the Jordanian Armed Forces. He also made a donation of JD 100,000 to support the work of voluntary societies and local councils in the region and help solve the question of telecommunications.

The King was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaleel Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ben Zeid and other dignitaries including Cabinet members and several deputies.

Premier meets Palestinian negotiators

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received Wednesday at the Prime Ministry head of the Palestinian negotiating team Faisal Hussein, chief negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi and team member Saad Ureikat.

Sharif Zeid and the Palestinian delegation exchanged views on future stages of the Middle East peace process and the Arab coordination meeting which will be held in Damascus Friday. The meeting will be attended by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine.

The delegation arrived in Amman earlier Wednesday.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abdul Shafi said the Palestinians were keen to achieve success at the Damascus meeting.

"We are going to the meeting with open minds and keenness to achieve coordination between parties to the negotiations," he said.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statements on settlements and self-rule, Dr. Abdul Shafi said the Palestinians insist on a complete halt of settlement activity.

He added that Palestinians do not differentiate between "political" and "security" settlements and refuse a limited self-rule proposal.

He said the next round of negotiations will be a test for the seriousness of Mr. Rabin's statements.

Dr. Abdul Shafi was quoted as saying by Reuters that the Palestinian team which met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker earlier this week had warned Washington against granting Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees for housing.

Ex-general says Israel could leave part of Golan

TEL AVIV (R) — A member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, formerly the army commander of the Golan Heights, said on Tuesday Israel should return part of the strategic plateau to Syria in exchange for peace.

"I am not in favour of leaving the Golan, but we can certainly make an opening and discuss those kilometres and metres Rabin is talking about," said reserve Brigadier-General Avigdor Kahalani in an Israeli radio interview.

Mr. Rabin, during a visit to the Heights prior to last month's election, said Israel could discuss returning "several kilometres" to Syria as Middle East peace talks began last October in Madrid.

Brig. Kahalani, a new Labour member of parliament, proposed that Syrian militarised divisions be withdrawn far from the Golan, and that Israeli forces be trimmed and pulled back from their present positions.

Since taking office last week Mr. Rabin has suspended signing new building contracts for Jewish settlers and new settlements that had yet to be set up in occupied Arab lands.

The moves pleased Washington. After a visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Israel this week, there were expectations that Washington might soon grant \$10 billion in loan guarantees it denied former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who refused to halt building or consider ceding land for peace.

Syria has demanded Washington continue withholding the aid until Israel pledges to withdraw from the lands it occupies in the 1967 war and recognises Palestinian rights.

Mr. Rabin's initiatives so far have been aimed at the 1.75 million Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where Mr. Shamir had focused his building boom.

A spokesman for Mr. Rabin denied reports on Tuesday that Mr. Rabin sent a message to Syria offering to discuss a pull-back from the Golan Heights.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily reported that such a message was being carried to Syrian President

Hafez Al Assad by Mr. Baker, who is touring the region.

"He (Mr. Rabin) never sent such a message," Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari told the Associated Press.

Yedioth quoted Mr. Rabin as having said in the message that if Mr. Assad publicly declared his dedication to achieving peace with Israel, the Jewish state would discuss a territorial compromise "concerning the Golan Heights."

But it quoted political sources as saying Israel would not cede all 1,150 square kilometres of the Golan.

In denying this account, Mr. Ben-Ari said Mr. Rabin has not changed his view that Israel should "not go down from the Golan Heights, even in the context of peace."

But he added that "that does not mean Israel will stick to the last centimetre of the Golan Heights."

Levy: Israel selling cheap

Former Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy slammed the Rabin government Tuesday for making what he said were concessions to the Arabs without an assurance of reciprocal gestures.

Mr. Levy said on Israeli Television that he told Mr. Baker on Tuesday: "I am very, very concerned that the other side will get the feeling that what we have here is an end of season sale."

He said Mr. Baker telephoned him on the last day of his three-day trip to Israel.

"It is in writing in the prime minister's and foreign minister's offices that if Israel accepts the principle of a settlement halt, they (the Arabs) will cancel the boycott," Mr. Levy said. "Now there is even an (Arab) withdrawal from that."

The former foreign minister, who was the most outspokenly flexible member of Mr. Shamir's right-wing government on the peace process, said Mr. Rabin should not give concessions for free.

"Leave it to the negotiations. There is no need to volunteer concessions before you've sat down and heard what the other side will give in return," Mr. Levy said.

Yemenis, Saudis to meet again on dispute

GENEVA (R) — Yemeni and Saudi Arabian officials have agreed to hold new talks later this year in a dispute over an oil-rich border region, according to Arab sources.

They said the agreement was reached at what they called a preparatory meeting in Geneva Monday.

There was no confirmation from either the Yemeni or Saudi missions to the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva. But Yemen Radio in Sanaa said the discussions had been cordial.

The two sides had agreed to hold another meeting at a date to be fixed "to set up a committee of experts to lay down the appropriate framework and measures to begin negotiations on the issue of Yemeni-Saudi borders," the radio added.

Diplomats said they understood the Saudi side was keen not to publicise the talks, although Yemeni officials last week confirmed they would be held.

The Arab sources and Yemeni radio said Yemen's delegation to the meeting was led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Dali and the Saudi team was headed by Religious Education Minister Abdul Aziz Khawayir.

Officials in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, said at the weekend the aim of the discussions would be to reach agreement on the time and venue for holding official negotiations.

The Geneva meeting was the first between the two countries on the long-standing border dispute which flared up anew earlier this year.

Yemen has said Saudi claims that the oil-rich areas of Hadramout, Ma'arib and Al Jawf were part of its territory made it necessary to discuss the border issue as soon as possible.

Relations between the two countries, already strained by Sanaa's pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis, deteriorated in April when Riyadh warned Western oil companies against exploring in areas it considered Saudi territory.

British Petroleum PLC (BP) then either cancelled or put on hold its plans to drill a Red Sea oil concession in an area claimed by both Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Mubarak wins nomination, warns Muslim extremists

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak won his party's endorsement for a third six-year term Wednesday, and warned Muslim extremists he would never let them "impose the law of the jungle."

Mr. Mubarak was addressing a congress of his National Democratic Party (NDP) in the midst of a fresh push for Middle East peace and a violent challenge from hardline Egyptian Muslims.

As he spoke, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker landed in Cairo on the latest leg of a Middle East tour to promote peace efforts. The day before, Mr. Mubarak hosted Yitzhak Rabin, the first Israeli prime minister to visit in six years.

The 64-year-old president thanked the 5,000 delegates packing the Cairo University auditorium. He did not immediately accept the nomination, but officials expect he will, despite his complaint last weekend that presidential duties "entail suffering... sacrificing the personal freedoms and private life which all citizens are guaranteed."

Mr. Mubarak took office in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat at a military parade in Cairo. He won a second term in 1987. With the economy improving, he has an unknown rival for the job.

Parliament nominates a single presidential candidate by a two-

thirds majority and sends its choice to the electorate in a yes-no referendum. The constitution allows any number of consecutive presidential terms.

The ruling party holds 383 seats in the 454-seat assembly and is backed by most of the 55 independents.

The Muslim extremists are thought to number no more than 15,000 hard-core members in this country of 58 million. They have no representation in parliament, but some analysts believe they could do well electorally if allowed to campaign freely.

Without specifically mentioning the extremists, Mr. Mubarak referred to attacks on Coptic Christians and their property and shootouts with police, mainly in Assiut.

"The perpetrators of terror want to undermine the nation's stability and prosperity in order to destroy investment, production, industry, agriculture and tourism," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We shall never let this happen. They want to impose the law of the jungle... and this must not and will not come to pass."

This year 46 people have died, nearly half of them Christians. Last month, Farag Foadah, a Muslim writer and champion of a secular state, was assassinated. Last week parliament stiffened the penal code to include the death penalty for membership in a terrorist group.

Mubarak promises new chapter in Israel ties

CAIRO (AP) — In the years after their 1979 treaty, Egypt and Israel have waged a "cold peace," in the words of Boutros Ghali, the U.N. secretary-general who helped construct the treaty as Egypt's foreign minister.

The visit of Israel's prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, to Cairo on Tuesday has warmed things up a little. After his summit with President Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian leader accepted Mr. Rabin's invitation to visit Israel.

The very fact that they are sitting together is a big drama. We are very excited about it," said Gad Ben-Ari, Mr. Rabin's spokesman.

With lingering memories of four Arab-Israeli wars, many Egyptians still view Israel as the enemy. And Cairo has in recent years restricted travel to Israel and business links with the Jewish state to improve ties with Arab states that were strained by the peace treaty.

"We have very little man-to-man relationship," lamented Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Ephraim Doweik, shortly before Mr. Rabin's visit.

Since 1980, one million Israelis have visited Egypt. But only 3,000 Egyptians went to Israel, mostly on official business. Few Egyptians go partly because of government restrictions, but also because of the "barrier of hate," as the late President Anwar Sadat once described it.

For many ordinary Egyptians, the struggle to feed their families means much more than the Egyptian-Israeli summit and the search for peace.

"I'm not concerned with politics," said Fawzi Ismail, 35, a government employee. "All I want and care about is to be able to feed my children and educate them."

"Life is becoming expensive. I barely have enough energy to feed my family. I can't afford to spend energy on politics."

"Let's be frank, the peace between Egypt and Israel is simply a no-war treaty. We don't trust them and they don't trust us," said Mostapha Kamal, a grocer.

Om Rihaab, a street vegetable vendor, smiled when asked what she thought of Egypt's peace with Israel.

"I know nothing about this," she said, cradling a baby, her sixth. "All I do is sell vegetables to feed me and my children."

Khaled Mohammad, 32, a fabric shop manager, said he did not think Mr. Rabin would have much to offer and believed wider Middle East peace was impossible while Arabs remained weak and divided.

"Israel is in a much stronger position than Arabs—they're squab-

bling and divided—and it's the Arabs who want something from Israel. Why should Israel give up land under conditions favourable to Arabs?" he asked.

"Unless Arabs and Israelis are on the same footing, Middle East peace is not possible," he said.

Egyptians are still uneasy with Israeli visitors.

On Tuesday, a crowd gathered as Egyptian security cordoned off a main downtown street while Mr. Rabin visited the gates of Heaven Synagogue and met a few of the 70 Jews who still live in Egypt.

"Why are they cleaning the street and blocking us, just for this Israel?" a young man said angrily as security men pushed Egyptians out of the way.

Despite Mr. Rabin's visit, it is unclear that his greater flexibility on peace issues and Mr. Mubarak's promise of a new era will translate into more Egyptian-Israeli trade and cultural exchanges.

Egypt provides Israel with about 20 per cent of its oil, worth about \$400 million annually. Other than that, trade between them is minimal—only \$20 million in 1991.

There is almost no academic cooperation, and Egyptian professional unions still officially boycott Israel.

At his news conference with Mr. Rabin on Tuesday, Mr. Mubarak said Mr. Rabin's visit heralded a new chapter in bilateral relations. But he was evasive in characterising how that chapter might read.

Mr. Mubarak refused to meet Mr. Rabin's ultra-nationalist predecessor Yitzhak Shamir. But he invited Mr. Rabin to Cairo and told the news conference he had accepted an invitation to pay a return visit to Israel.

Mr. Rabin declared: "I believe the time has arrived, following the example of Egypt and Israel, for other countries, for other peoples, to divert from war, from the course of confrontation, and embark on the course of peace."

"We are dealing now with new realities."

Israel wants Egypt to play a more active role in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Mubarak said he was ready to respond, but with caution.

"We are making big efforts to persuade them (other Arabs) to go through the peace process. Syria is friendly and we are trying to help. Help covers all the points of mediation. But we cannot pressure them," Mr. Mubarak said.

Both Egyptian and Israeli teams were evasive on what summit was covered at the summit.

Crowe disputes cover-up in Iranian shoot-down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired Admiral William J. Crowe, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has denounced as "preposterous and unfounded" reports the navy tried to cover up the truth behind its shooting down of an Iranian civilian airliner four years ago.

Adm. Crowe acknowledged that the USS Vincennes, which shot down the jetliner on July 3, 1988, was operating in Iranian territorial waters. And he acknowledged that U.S. military operations in the Gulf went beyond what was publicly stated at the time.

But testifying before the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, Adm. Crowe defended those actions and dismissed "unjustified conclusions" in investigative reports about the Airbus shoot-down earlier this month.

ABC-TV and Newsweek reports charged that the United States not only provoked the incident but also lied to cover it up. "There is no question that we kept many of our operations in

the Persian Gulf secret. We would have risked Americans' lives had we not," Adm. Crowe said.

"No one suggests that there were no mistakes made on the morning of July 3, 1988, and in the time that followed," he said.

"But making mistakes is a long step from a deliberate cover-up." The downing of the aircraft, killing all 290 aboard, came as U.S. warships were in the Gulf to keep shipping clear during the Iran-Iraq war. Pictures of the bodies of men, women and children floating in the Gulf's waters endure as a ghastly image of that time.

In acknowledging one of the report's findings, that the Vincennes was in Iranian waters, Adm. Crowe dismissed its importance. He said the exact location was a "peripheral subject," that it was not necessarily illegal to operate in Iranian waters, and that "the tragedy would have likely occurred whether the Vincennes was within Iranian waters or not."

He also maintained he was never specifically asked whether the ship was in territorial or

international waters during news conferences or congressional testimony in 1988.

"The accusations of a cover-up are preposterous and unfounded," Adm. Crowe said.

Adm. Crowe also told the panel: "Captains of the U.S. ships were expected 'to act aggressively' if they believed they were under threat, as the Vincennes captain has contended."

The reports' allegation that the United States had tilted against Iran in favour of Iraq at that time was hardly startling and was actually commonly known in 1988.

U.S. military officials did not use deception against the Iranians, beyond concealment of ship movements, and that all engagements involving gunfire were formally reported to Congress.

\$5.2b for war costs

A House of Representatives voted Tuesday to spend \$5.2 billion to pay off what lawmakers believe are the final bills of the

Tunisia probes deaths of Islamists

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia said on Wednesday an inquiry was probing the deaths in custody of five alleged Muslim fundamentalist militants last year and recommended investigating the deaths of two others.

The inquiry was being conducted by a committee empowered by President Zine al Abidine Ben Ali to investigate allegations of human rights abuses reported by humanitarian organisations.

London-based human rights group Amnesty International has said at least seven people, suspected of sympathising with the banned opposition Al Nahdha (Renaissance) group, died in custody between April and October 1991, and asked for a public inquiry.

The committee published a report on Wednesday on Mr. Ben Ali's order confirming that the seven men died "in obscure and suspicious circumstances."

In named them as: Abdul Aziz Mahuashi, Abdul Raouf Laaribi, Abdul Wahid Abdeli, Amour Degache, Fathi Khari, Faisal Barakat and Rachid Chammakhi.

The report said judicial inquiries into the first five cases were taking place, and asked for inquiries into the deaths of Barakat and Chammakhi to be reopened.

The interior ministry has said that Barakat died in a car crash and Chammakhi died of a heart attack a few hours after his arrest.

"We think that the two cases also took place in suspicious circumstances, and despite the fact that the inquiry about them was closed it seems that there are new elements which occurred, and therefore we recommend a new inquiry," the report said.

The report coincides with a trial of 279 alleged fundamentalists accused of plotting a coup to kill the president. The trial was adjourned until July 30 at the request of defence lawyers who wanted more time to prepare their case.

The court adjourned hearings for one group of defendants to July 30. The trial of another group had already been suspended for 17 days to July 27. A total of 279 defendants, many facing the death penalty, are charged with plotting to kill President Ben Ali as part of a plan to turn Tunisia into an Islamic state.

All the more than 100 accused who have been questioned in court have denied the charges.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Up to 10 killed in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Up to 10 people were killed in the latest wave of Kurdish guerrilla attacks in southeast Turkey, security officials said on Wednesday. Five members of a police anti-terror team died on Tuesday night when Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) fighters ambushed their vehicle on the main Mardin-Nusaybin road next to the heavily-guarded Syrian border, said the officials in Diyarbakir. Two other members of the police team were wounded. Anatolia news agency said one rebel was also killed in the attack. More than 4,300 people, including about 900 this year, have been killed since the PKK launched its fight for an independent state for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds in 1984. Specially trained crack police teams have been used in the war against the PKK in the southeast for the past five years. In another Tuesday night attack, PKK raiders killed two brothers in a village near the eastern city of Erzurum, Anatolia said. It gave no details. Two children were killed when a hand grenade they were playing with exploded on Tuesday in the town of Dodeli in the eastern province of Agri, Anatolia said. PKK rebels killed 10 Turkish gendarmes in a raid on Sivritepe border post near the Iraqi border on Monday.

Helicopter crashes in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — A military helicopter has crashed near the locality of Liria, some 70 kilometres north east of Juba, the capital of south Sudan, the official news agency reported Tuesday. Quoting an army statement, the agency said the plane crashed Saturday while in action over the Liria area, which is the gateway to Torit, the rebel stronghold which fell recently in the hands of the army. The agency did not elaborate on what caused the plane to crash or the fate of its occupants.

One wounded in Beirut car explosion

BEIRUT (AP) — A booby-trapped car exploded in east Beirut's Christian district of Na'ur Wednesday. Police said the driver was slightly wounded. A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said a single stick of dynamite exploded inside the white Mercedes-Benz as its owner, Pierre Saboun, tried to start the engine at 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT). Mr. Saboun suffered minor wounds and was admitted to the nearby Hotel Dieu Hospital, the spokesman said. No group claimed responsibility for the explosion, but police theorised it could be the result of a private dispute.

Iran, Iraq exchange bodies of soldiers

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and Iraq have exchanged the bodies of 101 soldiers killed during their eight-year war, state-run Tehran Radio reported Wednesday. The radio said the bodies of 50 Iranians were handed over at the Khosrawi border crossing, while Iran handed over the bodies of 51 Iraqis. It said the two countries would continue their efforts to account for hundreds of Iraqis and Iranians who remain listed as missing in action during the 1980-88 conflict.

Policeman shot dead in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian policeman was shot dead in the eastern city of Constantine on Wednesday, the official news agency APS reported. The agency said his assailant escaped. More than 80 members of the security forces have been gunned down since the beginning of the year in a wave of violence blamed on Muslim activists.

Khartoum ready to resume peace talks

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Sudanese government is ready to resume peace talks with the rebels after the first round of negotiations held in Nigeria was suspended last month, Sudanese official said Wednesday. Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, speaker of Sudan's National Assembly, told visiting Nigerian Interior Minister Tunji Kolawole that his government is ready to sit for a second round of talks with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the Nigerian capital Abuja. Peace talks between the Khartoum government and the SPLA opened at the beginning of June in Abuja. They were then suspended for the two sides to study an agreement they reached on forming an interim administration that would precede a new federal government. Colonel Khalifa, who headed the government's delegation to the June talks, did not set a date for the second round. The SPLA wants the lifting of Islamic law in Sudan as well as more autonomy and a greater share of economic development for the south. The SPLA took up arms against the government in 1983. Since February, the army has launched a successful offensive and recaptured dozens of towns long held by the rebels. The most serious defeat for the insurgents was the loss of Torit which was recaptured by the army last week.

Israel shells Lebanon guerrilla raids

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli artillery shelled guerrilla-held villages in South Lebanon Tuesday after one Israeli soldier was killed and five wounded in guerrilla attacks, security sources said.

They said Israeli and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia gunners on Tuesday night fired 75 heavy shells at villages outside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south.

The targeted villages were Jarjoun, 'Ain Bouswar and Jbaa. There was no report of casualties in the nighttime shelling but five civilians were wounded earlier when Israeli tanks, artillery and machineguns pounded seven villages north of the zone for some two hours in retaliation for Tuesday's attacks.

One Israeli soldier was killed and anti-tank rockets ambushed them near Beit Yahom village in the zone's middle sector, the Israeli army said.

Two soldiers were wounded when an explosive device blew up in the same sector of the zone in another attack, it added. "An Israeli soldier was killed and three soldiers were wounded... from... fire in the central sector... likewise another army force came upon an explosive device and as a result two soldiers were lightly wounded," an army spokesman said.

Security sources said earlier the bomb exploded beneath an Israeli tank at a crossroads near the village of Beit Yahom.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Circus Partenaire
18:30	Maguy
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Simpsons
21:00	NBA match
22:00	News in English
22:30	Movie of the Week: "I Was a Mail Order Bride"

PRAYER TIMES

04:11	Fajr
05:41	Dhuhr (Sunrise)
12:45	Dhuhr
16:23	'Asr
19:43	Maghrib
21:13	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632783
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Toronto Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625343
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 723261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751
Assiut International Church Tel. 627981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be fair and some clouds will appear at low altitudes. Winds will be moderately moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Agila, it will be dusty at times, with northerly moderate and calm seas.

Amman: Min./max. temp. 16 / 36
Aqaba: 24 / 36
Dumayr: 14 / 30
Jordan Valley: 22 / 36

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawra 722056
Dr. Abdul Wahid Awad 846070
Dr. Sabih Tamara 898973
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696048
Firdous pharmacy 661912
Al Azzam pharmacy 637025
Najmeh pharmacy 636772
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637650

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Masri (—)
Al Staras pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 611228
Blood Bank 771321
Highway Police 843422
Traffic Police 396390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 625800
Police Complaints 661170
Water and Sewerage 871467
Complaints 871467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 637025
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 621014
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661011
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642516
Aldah Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642363
Mahjoub, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Suez 6641714
Shimada Hospital 661131
University Hospital 648445
Al-Mustafa Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 6641406
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771011/26
Italian, Al-Mubalja 771011/26
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 661217/57
Amry, Marfa 661111/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622403/50
Amal Hospital 674153

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)98323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900260
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986722
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990

IRBID:
Suez Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Al Kafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Bohwa (RJ)
06:40	Agaba (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:30	Paris (RJ)
12:45	Athens (RJ)
13:15	London (RJ)
13:30	Riyadh (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
14:15	Dubai (RJ)
14:30	Jedd

Mahadin appointed Petra director; Safadi moves to Prime Ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty's Press Advisor Khaled Mahadin has been appointed director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, succeeding Ali Safadi who will become information advisor at the Prime Ministry, the Jordan Times has learned.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that the Cabinet has already signed the appointments and the two officials will formally assume their posts on Monday, July 27, following a royal decree approving the decision.

Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif visited Petra Wednesday and met with Mr. Safadi, expressing his deep appreciation of his efforts over the past six years as the agency's director general.

In an address at a ceremony attended by Petra staff to honour Mr. Safadi, the minister noted that Mr. Safadi has achieved many things and wished him success in his new endeavour.

The minister also urged Petra members to pursue their excel-



Khaled Mahadin

lent efforts.

Mr. Safadi, voiced his appreciation to the minister, pledging to do all in his power to serve his country. Mr. Safadi said he was thankful to all the Petra staff for their cooperation with him over the past six years.

Irsheidat leaves for Olympics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Youth Salah Irsheidat left Amman Wednesday for Spain to attend the opening of the summer olympics in Barcelona Sunday.

The minister is accompanied by an official delegation comprising the secretary general of the ministry, the secretary general of the Jordan Olympics Committee (IOC) and a committee member.

Jordan has sent seven participants to take part in the Olympics. They will be representing Jordan in table tennis, taekwondo, athletics and target shooting.

The athletes are: Nadia Rashed, Tawfiq Nusier, Ammar Speibi, Firas Jayousi, Fakreddin

Fuad, Awwad Sreys and Khaled Naghawi.

Nine officials are also accompanying the delegation headed by IOC member Munzer Al Humeidi.

The Olympic games will offer Jordan's team an opportunity to meet youth and sports officials from Arab countries taking part in the event and to discuss relations of inter-Arab sports relations, said the minister in a statement before departure.

Dr. Irsheidat expressed hope that the Jordanian athletes will win medals especially those for the taekwondo and athletics events.

Landslide delays opening of the Amman-Irbid road

AMMAN (J.T.) — The opening of the Amman-Irbid road, which was expected by the beginning of October, will be delayed for at least two more months due to a landslide this week, Jordan Television reported Wednesday.

It said the landslide, which took place in a mountainous area 15 kilometres from Zarqa River, was caused by instability in natural geological strata and the existence of several water-springs at the foot of the mountain. These springs, JTV said in its report, had soaked the mountain with water and caused cracks in its rocks.

The report said that several

landslides have occurred in the past, the last in 1971 which destroyed a bridge over the Zarqa River and closed the Amman-Irbid road.

The contracting company working on the project announced earlier that the road will be open for traffic in October in one direction with two lanes. Supervising engineers at the site told JTV that things have now become complicated because construction work will be halted until 250,000 cubic metres of rocks and mud are removed from the area and studies on the causes of the landslide are finalised.

Al Hussein summer youth camp to open soon in Ajloun

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth Wednesday announced that it will open Al Hussein Summer Camp for male youths in Ajloun at the end of July which will be attended by Jordanian youths.

The week-long programme includes tours to various archaeological cultural, scientific sites in Jordan, meetings with Jordanian officials, seminars, lectures and recreational and sports activities, according to ministry officials.

They said that Minister of Youth Salah Irsheidat has set up a supervisory committee, led by Jiries Haddad, to organise activities for the young men.

Earlier this month, the

ministry organised a similar programme for summer activities for young women from Jordan, those living in Jordan and abroad.

In Karak, Mohammad Sqour, Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development, opened a voluntary summer camp organised by the Muta Special Education Centre in Karak. It is organised in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The week-long activities include training in engraving copper and glass, book binding, farming, construction and decoration of homes, physical training, and scouting.



Crown Prince outlines Jordan's domestic, regional affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — In an address to the Royal Command and Staff Academy on Wednesday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday outlined Jordan's efforts at the domestic, regional and international levels and its vital role in the Middle East region.

The Middle East region is passing through a crucial security, political and economic era, signalling signs of new hopes for easing tensions among nations of the world. But at the same time the region is showing seeds of new complications, the Crown Prince noted in his address to the officers about to graduate from the academy.

He said that Jordan lies in the heart of the troubled Middle East region. Answering questions about prospects for healing the rift within the

Arab countries, the crown Prince noted that Jordan has been playing a historic role in this regard. The Arab World, he noted, was partitioned into mini-states against the will of the Arab masses and contrary to the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt, which broke out earlier this century, and sought Arab unity and liberation from foreign domination.

The Prince lamented the present state of affairs and the relations among Arab countries, describing them as taking the form of mere contacts at international conferences where the Arab states are represented. He said that Jordan's position remains in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

Romanian ambassador Says Jordanian ownership of companies could boost ties

AMMAN (Petra) — At least 400 Jordanian companies are operating in Romania, and Romanian officials hope that the number will grow, according to Romania's new ambassador to Jordan Anton Pascale.

The Romanian government is ready to support Jordanian private sector investment in Romania, which can absorb a great deal of industries and trade now that its decades-long centralised economic system is over and the country is adopting a market economy, said the ambassador in a statement Wednesday.

Romania's exports to Jordan reached \$30 million annually while its export of Jordanian products stands at \$5 million annually. He said the Romanian government is now contemplating a number of ways to adjust the balance of trade through more Romanian imports of Jordanian products.

Romania is now contemplating the purchase of more Jordanian

phosphates and to expand the volume of trade exchanged between the two nations, said the ambassador.

He said that new laws and regulations in Romania made investors and businessmen from Jordan and other countries rushing into Romania to invest their money and start fresh trade ties with the country.

The government has lately decided to transfer many of its formerly central-controlled businesses to the private sector, and at present 15,000 major industrial businesses are being transformed. The ambassador added that shares are available for Romanians, Jordanians and other nationalities. Indeed, Jordanian ownership of Romanian companies would greatly contribute towards enhancing Romanian-Jordanian relations, he said.

Mr. Pascale noted that the Romanian government has established a special bank to finance imports and exports to help mer-

chants and businessmen boost their operations.

Referring to Romanian-Jordanian cultural relations, the ambassador said that 10,000 Jordanian students have already graduated from Romanian universities and 900 others are pursuing higher studies in Romanian universities. Romania, he added, welcomes any number of Jordanian students as there is no ceiling to acceptance of Jordanian students.

Mr. Pascale reiterated his country's firm support for Jordan's Middle East policies, noting the Bocharst continues to back the Arab people in their struggle to liberate their occupied territory through peace negotiations that can guarantee the return of all the occupied Arab lands to their legitimate owners.

He also said that his country was now making preparations for political parliamentary elections, the second since the Romanians opted for democracy.

DEF draft passed; suggestion law be 'compatible with Islam' stirs debate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday endorsed a draft law on the Development and Employment Fund (DEF)-1992 as presented by the government following lengthy debates of each article.

Debate of a number of articles in the law were heated, particularly after some deputies suggested that a clause "stipulating that the law should be compatible with Islam" be added.

Some of the deputies' suggestion was made by the house's legal committee, but opposed by other deputies when the draft law was discussed.

At the end, the clause and other controversial clauses in the law were not added. The cabinet last month

approved the draft law, which aims to replace the Development and Employment Fund that has existed over the past three years. The main functions of the new fund will be:

- providing direct and indirect funds to individuals and families;
- providing funds to municipal and rural councils to carry out necessary infrastructure projects to promote productive operations;
- providing financing to government agencies in accordance with the conditions set by the fund's board of directors to support social development projects in rural regions provided these aim at increasing local participation in productive activities or creating

labour-oriented projects which will offer employment to people from the low-income groups; — rehabilitating people and enabling them to take up professions as well as improving the performance of professionals in certain sectors;

— assisting local individuals and voluntary institutions to develop their capabilities;

— conducting scientific research and field studies to obtain data for projects that could help attain the objectives related to the fund's laws; and;

— coordinating efforts with all institutions working in productive social work so as to forestall duality in financing establishing projects.

Japanese volunteer group debates whether to continue work in Iraq

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Japan-based peace group that has worked towards easing the suffering of the Iraqi people for two years, will have to decide whether to end its work or to continue despite the difficulties the group faces, according to one of the members.

Peace Action Network, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded against the almost unanimous vote for a military solution to the Gulf crisis, visited Iraq last April with convoys of medicine and milk — in what may be its last mission.

"We are working under a lot of difficulty," 27-year-old Tomoe Murakami acknowledged. She is heading to Japan Sunday to meet with the 29 other members in order to come to an agreement.

"Our main problem is being able to obtain a visa to enter Iraq," she added, noting that the group had to wait for two months until they were able to secure a visa for the last trip.

Since the organisation is non-profit, the funds for supplies are raised by the people of Japan and each member of the group has to finance themselves to participate in the mission. "So it is becoming very difficult," Ms. Murakami said.

Citing another example, Ms. Murakami said that arranging the groups activities in Japan is now complicated. "We had a successful photo exhibition recently back home, but it was so difficult trying to rent a place to display the photographs," she said.

"It is also becoming financially unmanageable to receive support for such activities, when usually it is not too demanding. We always seem to be justifying what we are doing," she added.

Peace Action Network has so far sent four convoys to Iraq totalling an amount of JD90,000 and 30 tonnes worth of supplies. "We have been able to save some lives, especially those of babies who are in dire need of milk. More importantly, we were able to show the Iraqi citizens that there are people out there in support of them... not everyone is their enemy," she recalled.

Since the organisation was formed, the members have set up a photographic exhibition depicting three themes: Civilian facilities, people and how they are affected by the continuous bombing during the Gulf war and a display of demolished buildings. "Many people visited the exhibition and we received positive feedback," Ms. Murakami recalled. A lot of people left the hall realising that there is another side to the issue, she added.

The group was also able to publish a book about the situation of Iraq along with postcards presenting the hospitals in Iraq and "death road" (the road that leads to Basra from the Kuwaiti border) among others. Additionally, lectures on Iraq are always given by the members to schools and the general public.

If the group decides against continuing its mission, Ms. Murakami is contemplating the prospect of coming back to Jordan to work with a Japanese relief organisation, which always needs more volunteers, she said.

Ms. Morakami appears to have found solace among the Arab people. "I find that there is a similarity deep within me and your people in Jordan and Iraq. My grandmother's and mother's generation have kept their traditions and are facing difficulty adapting to modernisation. Identifying with that, she added: "I love the people here and their traditions, as I love my family."

Another driving force that led her to the Middle East was a lack of information and her inquisitiveness for wanting to "see reality." "If I had stayed in Japan, I would not have found out who the Arabs are," Ms. Murakami said. "There are not many Arabs in Japan and information is limited, I wanted to see real society to avoid any misjudgment."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Wednesday a cable to Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Oman's Nahda day. King Hussein wished Sultan Qaboos good health and success in leading the Omani people to a further prosperous future. King Hussein also expressed pride in the brotherly relations between Jordan and Oman.

Plums to be imported from occupied lands

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation has decided to allow the import of plums from occupied Ramallah, Tulkarem and Nablus as of July 15 until Aug. 10. The decision limits the imports to 75 kilograms of plums for each dunum of land. It also allowed the import of plums from Hebron area as of Aug. 10 until Oct. 30. It decided also to allow the import of a two-car load of cactus fruit daily from Ramallah area as of July 20 until Aug. 20.

World Bank delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A World Bank delegation headed by its vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa region arrived in Amman Wednesday to follow up on issues pertaining to the bank's relations with Jordan, the economic reforms programme and future projects which the bank could finance. The delegation will meet with senior officials to be briefed on Jordan's economic and social development programme.

Today Thursday Today

FROM 10.30 PM TO 3.30 AM

RAMADA HOTEL Sunday

it is abtg opening FROM 4 - 8 PM

7th Circle, Tel 61722 825941-20, Pox 103494 Amman - Jordan

النخبات

للهندسة والتجارة

We Are Tomorrow

شارع الجامعة - عمارة الفنان سنتر - ت ٦٩٤٢٠١ - فاكس ٦٩٤٢٠٢ عمان - الأردن

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
جوردن تايمز مؤسسة للصحافة والاعلام

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Wrong end of equation

THE ARABS have been urged to reciprocate the latest Israeli peace overtures especially its decision to limit its settlement plans in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Yet it is one thing to ask the Arab parties to the peace talks to reciprocate positive statements on the prospects of peace in the area and quite another to call on them to end for example the Arab boycott of Israel so soon in the peace process.

The Israeli settlement programme in the occupied Arab territories is, per se, unlawful under international law and contravenes the United Nations Charter. The Arab boycott of Israel on the other hand is lawful according to international law, at least as long as a state of war still exists between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Any attempt to equate the two matters is therefore untenable legally and politically.

There is no acceptable and legitimate way to equate an unlawful act by Israel with a lawful act by the Arab side. The international community must therefore look somewhere else for the purposes of responding positively to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's admittedly promising utterances on freezing Israel's construction projects on Arab lands which are aimed at housing new Jewish immigrants from the far corners of the world.

The Arab parties are indeed coming under increasing pressure to give way on confidence-building measures with a view to enhancing and bolstering the impending peace negotiations scheduled to resume in Rome in the course of the next several weeks. There are, however, many possibilities open for the Arab side to do just that without having to yield so soon on the Arab economic boycott against Israel. The Arabs can simply make some positive statements on the prospects for peace in the Middle East in the wake of Rabin's triumphant return to power in his country and leave it at that until the situation on the ground actually changes.

In fact the Arab side has done just that over the past several days. Perhaps the uprising in the occupied Arab territories may be scaled down during the negotiations between the two sides and eventually stopped should the talks bear fruit. But for the world to ask the Arab World to end its economic boycott of Israel before any tangible result is achieved on the peace front would be tantamount to putting the cart before the horse. And that would not be useful.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JAMES BAKER's words at a press conference in Amman before his departure were nice and all that they need is putting them into practice, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that all words and statements remain valueless if not backed by deeds, especially that those statements have been repeated so often. In this region, we have been used to listening to American statements about what is right and just and about peace and the international legitimacy which has lately become the norm of the day following the Gulf crisis, said the daily. It said it is regrettable to find that these words and what they entail vanish quickly from the scene whenever the matter is connected with Israel's occupation of Arab lands in Palestine and the Zionist aggression on the Arab countries. U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 have not been implemented because they mean an Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab lands, the paper added. We have heard the nice words of the U.S. Secretary of State but we were apprehensive that these words could be a mere attempt on the part of the U.S. administration to win support for President Bush and to improve his image, the paper continued. Mr. Baker spoke firmly about the need for Iraq to respect the international legitimacy, but failed to tackle the Middle East question and Israel's continued occupation of Arab land with the same firmness and seriousness, the paper noted. It said that although we like to hear the nice words of the U.S. Secretary of State, we would like more seriousness on the part of the U.S. administration in dealing with the Arab-Israeli question and justice established in our area.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily tackled the situation in Iraq in light of the repeated U.N. attempts to enter the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, warning the world of the consequences of any fresh aggression on Iraq. Abdul Rahim Omar said that the United Nations is being used as a tool by the United States to weaken Iraq and to level insults against the Arab Nation through the U.N. inspectors now stationed in front of the Iraqi ministry. There is danger of a fresh aggression on Iraq and the signs were clear in the threats issued by the U.S., Britain and France against Iraq, said the writer. He said that the destruction of Iraqi weapons was in itself a shame to the whole Arab Nation and an insult to the Arabs everywhere. The Americans, who are pursuing their war against Iraq, which started with the raids of January 1991, have burnt the Iraqi crops and are now trying to prevent the Agriculture Ministry from supervising the Iraqi food production which is helping the Iraqis offset the effects of the sanctions, said the writer.

Disillusion with politics could be dangerous

By E. J. Dionne Jr

THE American political class is caught up in a trend found throughout the world's democracies towards grumpiness, alienation, disaffection and anger. Call it democratic distemper. Almost everywhere there is a sense that traditional political leaders are failing.

French newspapers are filled with assaults on old-style political leaders of all persuasions. Italians speak with contempt about what they call the "partyocracy." Canada has been on the verge of a constitutional nervous breakdown for years. In the intimate anti-incumbent vote, Denmark recently voted against Europe's entire political establishment by rejecting further union in the European Community.

Why should democracies be in such turmoil at the very moment when democracy seems so triumphant around the world? Why are democratic elections so edgy? Insecurity bred by economic stagnation certainly has played a role. Lousy economies always mean lousy politics for incumbents. And communism's collapse has disoriented the right and the left alike.

The right has lost its greatest enemy. The left faces widespread scepticism over whether intervention in the economy by central governments can be anything more than watered down, Soviet-style central planning.

But the end of the cold war is especially jarring because it coincides with other trends that are

disorienting the democratic world. Bill Clinton, take note: If you win, you will inherit a slew of problems, many of which you will not be able to blame on George Bush or even Ronald Reagan.

The decline of national economies

"Globalisation" is one of the buzzwords of the 1992 campaign. The most important economic transformation of the past two decades is the increasing ease with which the managers of large corporations — and now smaller ones — can move their plants anywhere in the world. Ditto for the holders of large amounts of capital.

This has created all manner of dislocation. Factory jobs, once the keystone of what Americans and Europeans thought of as a middle-class standard of living, can be shipped off at a moment's notice. And when factories are mobile, national governments have a harder time imposing labour, safety and environmental regulations, key ingredients in the political bargains that kept social peace.

You do not have to be a Marxist to see that this amounts to a major power shift from democratic governments to holders of private capital and executives of corporations. For politicians in democratic countries, this is a nightmare. They are still accountable to voters for the health of their national economies, but

they have less power to set even broad economic policy.

The collapse of big ideas

If the economic moorings of politics have decayed, so have the philosophical moorings — left and right.

The left still has a lot to say, especially about the impact of economic globalisation, but its grander themes lack the power they once enjoyed. The right is a bit more triumphant these days, if only because the "Reds" are on the run. But the conservatives' big ideas don't look all that great, either. The Reagan and Thatcher revolutions have given way to the more modest holding actions of George Bush and John Major. American conservatives such as Jack Kemp and William Bennett speak often and candidly about problems that conservatism has not solved, especially those of the poor.

The decline of ideological illusions is, on balance, a good thing. As Czechoslovakia's Václav Havel reminds us, the end of the ideological age — the retreat from the search for a "universal theory of the world" — means the end of a dangerous intellectual arrogance. But when the big ideas lose their power they also lose their capacity to mobilise popular loyalties.

The impulse to fragment

With weakened national governments and with the old ideolo-

gies lacking the ability to explain everything, individuals and small groups throughout the democratic world are turning inward. On the left, for example, concerns over class and economics often give way to a focus on race, gender, and culture. On the right, there is a renewal of nationalism, and in some cases xenophobia.

Across the spectrum voters are mistrustful of central government and are opting for regional movements often built on old nationalisms. Northern Italians are seeking greater independence from Rome and the south, Scottish and Welsh nationalism is enjoying a modest revival, Quebec is seeking greater autonomy or independence from Canada, and Mr. Havel's new democratic Czechoslovakia seems on the verge of breaking in two.

The United States is not immune. In California, some politicians want to split the state in three.

The search for choices beyond government and the market

Since World War II, the political debate in most democratic countries has been dominated by a right versus left feud over whether the government or the market should be trusted more. Parties of the left look to government to regulate the market, redistribute its proceeds, and control what capitalists, unchecked, might do to the environment,

employees, or communities. The neo-capitalist right has seen many government intrusions as unnecessary restrictions on individual freedom (and as antithetical to economic growth).

That debate is likely to be with us for a long time. But, as sociologist Alan Wolfe points out in his book "Whose Keeper?" a debate that casts government and the marketplace as the main mechanisms of social organisation leaves out all those intermediate institutions that are, in fact, the most important in people's lives: family, church, neighbourhood associations, workplace ties, unions and a variety of informal organisations.

Voters, in other words, don't like statist "collectivism," but neither do they like a radical, self-centred individualism that sees people mainly as strivers in an amoral marketplace. To the extent that "the left" is associated with the first and "the right" with the second, voters will react by searching for other options that preserve liberty while strengthening ties and values associated with community.

Does the democratic distemper endanger itself? It could, especially if economies began to spiral downward and established political classes were deemed by voters to be incompetent or worse. But we have not reached that point yet. And steps can be taken to answer some of the difficulties that a more compli-

cated world poses.

Democratic governments that want to regulate the pollution created by private companies will have to cooperate across international lines. Whatever the failures of the Rin conference, it was a first step to cooperation among democratic countries towards this end. The same approach has been helpful in regulating international banking, and it could address issues such as worker safety and labour law.

If transnational cooperation is the solution to some problems, decentralisation may be the solution to others. There is, in principle, no reason why the Scots or the Welsh or the Quebecers should be deprived of greater autonomy. On matters relating to trade and currency, the global economy will force them to cooperate with their central governments. But there is an array of issues, especially relating to education and culture, where government closer to the people works better.

What we can be sure of is that the democratic distemper will not be cured if we pretend that it is simply the product of one defective politician or another. That implies that one person or one party or one idea can fix what ails us. It may be a tempting notion, during the week of a party convention, but it is not a promise that any party or candidate will be able to keep — The Washington Post.

Principles guiding extradition

By Pascal B. Karmy

IN view of the recent request conveyed by the U.S., Britain and France to the Libyan authorities for the extradition to their countries of Libyans accused of bombing in 1988 a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland and a French airliner over Chad, it is useful and timely to state first the main principles on extradition then we shall apply those principles to the Libyan case.

Extradition means delivery of a suspected or convicted person by the state of refuge to the state in the jurisdiction of which the offence is alleged to have been committed or the offender has been convicted.

After Libya had refused to surrender the Libyans, the Security Council passed a resolution on April 15, 1992 imposing sanctions on Libya to press it to surrender the two Libyans. Let us examine what justifications Libya has in refusing to comply with the Security Council resolution.

General principles

Extradition is based on the principle of mutual cooperation of states to combat crimes and to bring criminals to justice. Professor Ian Brownlie, in his book "Principles of Public International Law" says: "In the normal case the process of extradition accords with good policy. The values of justice are preserved and the interest of the requesting state in exercising jurisdiction is recognised. Moreover, the individual is not allowed to escape responsibility for the common types of crimes."

The principles governing extradition have been abstracted mainly from treaty provisions

concluded between states. With the exception of alleged crimes under international law (such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace), and in the absence of a treaty between the states concerned, surrender of an accused or of an alleged criminal cannot be demanded as of right. In other words, in general there is no obligation to extradite. On the other hand, there is no general rule which forbids surrender by the requested state despite the absence of a treaty.

Another principle concerns double criminality, meaning that the act with which the accused is charged must be criminal under the laws of both the state of refuge and the state requesting the extradition.

Another leading principle is that of speciality, according to which the person extradited by one state to another must be tried and punished exclusively for offences for which extradition had been requested and granted. That is why great care should be taken to define precisely the offences for which extradition may be granted.

Extradition may be refused if the requesting state is not expected to observe reasonable procedural standards as a result of which it may be feared that the accused will not be fairly tried. Furthermore, extradition will be refused if the person is accused of a political offence even where a treaty exists. However, in concluding treaties, states specifically exclude persons accused of political offences or persons seeking asylum from persecution. Indeed, the right of a person to seek in

other countries asylum from persecution is prescribed in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of Dec. 6, 1948 as well as in other international conventions. But this right cannot be invoked in case of prosecution for non-political crimes or for acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Moreover, in general, states refuse to extradite their nationals unless there is a treaty to the contrary; but in some cases to refuse extradition without assuming responsibility for trying the suspected nationals is considered a clear abuse of power.

Conditions for extradition

The act with which the suspected person is charged must be punishable by the law of the state of refuge. Second, the criminal act must be of a gross nature, such as a felony or major misdemeanour. Third, there must be sufficient evidence to arraign the accused before a law court or to support the judgement, if any, passed against the accused. Fourth, the criminal act has been committed within the jurisdiction of the requesting state. Fifth, before complying with the extradition request, the state of refuge is entitled to examine the request to ascertain whether extradition requirements have been fulfilled.

The case of surrender of the accused Libyans

If we apply the above-stated principles and conditions to the Libyan case, one may conclude

that Libya has the right to refuse the request of the U.S., Britain and France for the extradition of the suspected Libyans for the following reasons:

1) The Libyan constitution does not allow the extradition of Libyans nationals, which is quite lawful.

2) There is no extradition treaty between Libya and those states.

3) No sufficient evidence has been transmitted to the Libyan authorities, to charge the suspected Libyans.

4) Libya wanted to try the accused in its own courts and asked the concerned states to submit documentary or other evidence to substantiate their claim but they did not respond. Thus, although Libya refused to extradite its nationals, it was ready to assume its responsibility under international law by trying the suspected persons, but no proof was forthcoming from the requesting states.

5) There is no guarantee by the U.S., Britain and France that the two accused Libyans would receive fair trial in either country, especially after those states raised a hue and cry in world media about the suspects, to the extent that they created in the public opinion genuine prejudice against them. Those states have almost prejudged the issue.

Security Council resolution of April 15, 1992

The Security Council resolution of April 15, 1992 and on sanctions against Libya is the result of clear manipulation of the

Charter of the United Nations. In effect, the recent resolutions of the United Nations particularly those of the Security Council, are no longer expressing the real will of the international community but rather that of the main western powers, namely the U.S., Britain and France. They are permanent members of the Security Council whose preponderant influence, politically and financially, can sway the votes of other members in their favour. In this connection I wish to quote a relevant paragraph of an article written by Erskine Childers, the well-known writer and journalist, titled "The New World Federal Order" (Jordan Times July 4, 1992).

"The insidious abuse of the Charter has now been taken one dangerous stage further over Libya. The captive council has been made to ignore peaceful redress under Chapter VI even

when a state is performing its obligations under a treaty; even when—as laid down in Article 36.2 it has taken a dispute to the International Court of Justice, the United Nation's principal judicial organ. The role of the world court is thus now also jeopardised."

Cambridge University Law Professor Marc Weller recently wrote in "The European" that some judges were "privately enraged" by this use of the Security Council. "For in this instance the mechanism designed to combat actual acts of aggression has been transformed into a machinery for ad hoc law-making to further interests of individual states, and prejudice the decisions of the court."

The author was a lawyer in Palestine up to the end of the Mandate in 1948 and legal advisor in UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna.

LETTERS

Give it a try!

To the Editor:

I read Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim's article titled Campaign against Arabs, Islam (Jordan Times, July 21). I agree with him. I would like to add my point of views to his.

The language used in the classroom, depends on who one wants to teach. Students who are good at science are not necessarily good at foreign languages. The use of native language in teaching, higher education gives opportunity to more people in the society.

Not all students who finish higher studies must go abroad for academic careers. Most study sciences to work in their own countries and help it develop.

By doing so they help educate the next generation and thus keep the society progressing. This domestic necessity can be very well satisfied by the use of the mother tongue.

Social development depends on good education for the majority of the people. Good native teachers are an exclusive necessity to educate millions of pupils in the coming decades. Scientific seeds should be planted in students' minds easily and naturally by the use of the native language.

More than a hundred years ago, Waseda University in Tokyo started to provide academic teaching in Japanese. At that time modern scientific concepts and terms were adapted from German, French and English. My Japanese brothers and sisters in that age struggled hard to keep intellectual independence and technical advancement. The new method attracted students from rural areas, who did not have the chance or ability to use a foreign language, the only way, at that time towards university education.

Some used to say at the time that Japanese was not a good language for the sciences. A hundred years ago, Asia was an underdeveloped region. But now the results are stunning. Now, days many new ideas come from the Japanese and world scientists are translating them from Japanese into their own languages.

To conclude, the question is not which language is being used, but how sincere you work in your own field. People should have the right to get educated in their mother tongue. This has nothing to do with religious fundamentalism. It is more related to freedom of expression. Give your people the chance to express their ideas in their own language. Give them the chance to develop their full potential.

I know Arabs are capable to adapt their language to modern times. The task could be difficult. The effort to interact with other cultures, with different history and religion is endless. But the results cannot be but satisfying.

Tomoe Murakami,
Japanese volunteer worker,
P.O. Box 11285,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

طرح احداث الناصل

Hopefuls line up hoping to be next 'Scarlett'

By Carolyn S. Carlson

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — More than 10,000 American women — and as many European women — have submitted photographs hoping to win the prize of Scarlett O'Hara in the miniseries sequel to *Gone With The Wind*.

Katie Benedict drove from Alabama and waited more than six hours in hopes of earning the coveted role of the Civil War heroine. "I wanted to be sure I wasn't behind 2,000 other people," said the 19-year-old, who arrived at 3:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. casting call.

"I didn't want them to choose Scarlett before I got here." Actually, she was one of only about 200 women standing in line outside the Atlanta Civic Centre as the tryouts got under way for the planned eight-hour miniseries of Scarlett, last year's best-selling *Gone With The Wind* sequel.

The audition was the only open casting call planned for

the United States, producer Robert Halmi and casting Director Lynn Kressel said Thursday.

"I've had to change my phone number in New York seven times," Mr. Halmi told a news conference. "I had nothing but Scarlett messages 24 hours a day."

"It's a feeding frenzy. We've tried to make some order in this thing."

Even with thousands of women sending in photos, though, the interest in the role doesn't approach that shown for the selection of Scarlett in the original blockbuster movie of 1939.

Vivien Leigh, a relative unknown and British to boot, was chosen after a talent search that kept fans of the novel spellbound for months and involved screen tests of many major Hollywood actresses as well as a bevy of southern belles.

Ms. Kressel said she plans casting sessions in New York and Los Angeles for professional actresses recommended by their agents. All other potential Scarlett's have

been advised to show up in Atlanta.

All comers got a chance to read a page and a half of dialogue from Scarlett, the Alexandra Ripley novel on which the miniseries is based. Promising candidates were expected to read a longer hit of dialogue, and then the best will be screen-tested later in the year.

Mr. Halmi said he is conducting an open search because he really wants an unknown for the role he considers "the epitome of the American female." She doesn't even have to look like the raven-haired Miss Leigh.

Mr. Halmi said the male lead, Rhett Butler, also is not likely to look like Clark Gable, Miss Leigh's counterpart in the 1939 movie. "I'm not going to have a big-haired, mustachioed guy," he said.

The casting of Butler will be almost as critical as Scarlett because of the length of the miniseries, scheduled to be broadcast simultaneously in the United States and 17 other countries in November 1993.



Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in the film *Gone With The Wind*.

Producers are looking for a new Scarlett for the sequel

Given up for dead, Japanese returns after 48 years

By Mark O'Neill

Reuters

TOKYO — Shintaro Iijima left Japan at 14 to serve as a railway guard in China, disappeared after World War II and was officially pronounced dead in 1961.

But Iijima did not die. Caught in the maelstrom of Japan's 1945 surrender, he lived an assumed life as a Chinese coal miner for four decades, unloosing his Japanese origins and applying to visit his homeland only two years ago.

Iijima, 62, who now lives with his wife and two children in the city of Dal'Negorsk in the Russian Far East, took an Aeroflot plane to Niigata, on Japan's west coast, in March. "When I saw the land of Japan from the air above Niigata, I wept and was unable to speak," he told a Japanese vice foreign minister in Tokyo the night he arrived.

He was met at Niigata Airport by fellow members of the volunteer group which left for China in 1944. They organised and funded his return visit.

During an emotional reunion, he told them in a mixture of Russian and Japanese: "My legs are like jelly, I can't believe I have arrived. I had always kept the hope of coming back. I used to sing Japanese songs and listen to the radio to keep up my Japanese."

Iijima returned to Russia at the end of May after visiting relatives, friends and family graves.

Born in 1930 west of Tokyo, he volunteered to serve as a railway guard in Manchuria, northeast China, then under Japanese control.

The group was part of a government movement that sent millions of Japanese to develop Manchuria. His grandparents with whom he was living tried in vain to discourage him.

In the spring of 1944, Iijima was posted to a rural area close to the Soviet border. On August 8, 1945, the Soviet army invaded Manchuria, capturing hundreds of thousands of Japanese soldiers. A week later Tokyo surrendered.

An estimated 600,000 Japanese soldiers were taken to labour camps in Siberia where about 60,000 died. The rest were not allowed to return to Japan until the mid-1950s.

Iijima's family lost all con-

tact with him. In March 1961, a court pronounced him among the war dead.

Reality was different. After the war ended, he found work in a Chinese hospital. But the long hours and poor conditions persuaded him to run away and he took a small boat along the Amur River that divides China and Russia.

The boat was intercepted by Soviet border guards and Iijima was captured. Afraid of being caught as Japanese, he claimed he was a Chinese called Wang Guangli.

Sentenced to three years in prison for illegally trying to enter the Soviet Union, he continued to masquerade as Chinese, fearful that, if his identity were known, he would either be sent to a labour camp or murdered by Korean prison inmates.

On his release, he went to Dal'Negorsk, 200 kilometres north of the Pacific port of Nakhodka, where he worked in a coal mine.

He later became a Soviet citizen, with the ethnic origin in his passport given as Chinese, and married a Russian woman. He did not tell interviewers in Japan whether his wife knew, and helped him conceal, his identity from authorities.

He spoke Japanese only to himself and kept up his knowledge by singing Japanese songs. Fearful he was being watched by the KGB, he dared not contact family or friends in Japan.

But the new era of openness brought in by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave him courage to reclaim his identity. In 1990 he was granted permission to use his real name and was reclassified an ethnic Japanese.

He applied at the Japanese consulate in Nakhodka to return for a visit, meeting a fellow Japanese for the first time in 45 years. He also wrote to his family and those who had gone with him to Manchuria.

In interviews in Japan, he made an emotional appeal for more help for his poverty-stricken adopted country.

"The Russians are good people, they need your help," he told one news programme, speaking in clear, if accented Japanese.

Just before boarding the ship that would carry him back to Russia, he said Japan had changed beyond recognition. "It was completely beyond my imagination."

Japan's bachelor prince may suffer from Charles-Di uproar

By Abi Sekimitsu

Reuters

TOKYO — Any well-bred young woman toying with the idea of marriage to Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito must have had second thoughts after the lurid London press allegations about Princess Diana's marital problems.

"It ain't easy being a princess," read the cautionary headline in one Tokyo weekly magazine. The message: Joining the royals can drive nice girls to tears and despair.

The palace drama starring the reportedly feuding Prince and Princess of Wales has found a ready echo in the Japanese press, muzzled for months from speculating on who, and when, bachelor Prince Naruhito will wed.

Snippets from Diana: Her True Story, the book by Andrew Morton which triggered the frenzy in the British press, have been liberally quoted in Japanese weeklies feasting on scandal about dashing Princess Di.

One magazine trumpeted its acquisition of "exclusive advance publishing rights" for a translation of Diana: A Princess And Her Troubled Marriage, a biography by Nicholas Davies.

A Tokyo television network sent a film crew to London to join in the media scrutiny of the 11-year marriage of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, and 31-year-old Diana.

Clearly the British royal scandal has proved a godsend to Tokyo's newsmongers, frustrated by a media blackout — imposed at the request of the imperial palace — on 32-year-old Prince Naruhito's quest for a bride.

The short, shy-looking Prince Naruhito, heir to an imperial line which tradition traces back to the sun goddess Amaterasu, said in his 20s that he wished to marry by the time he was 30.

It never happened, despite headlines linking him at one time or another with the daughters of various prominent Japanese families and even, briefly, with American actress Brooke Shields.

When Prince Naruhito's 30th birthday came and went in 1990, the tabloid press began to examine what had gone wrong.

One plausible theory was that no eligible modern-minded young woman could face the idea of entering the fussy, tradition-bound imperial court and saying goodbye to a normal life of relative privacy.

Always in the background is the sad case of Prince Naruhito's mother, Empress Michiko, the daughter of a wealthy miller who underwent a striking physical transformation after she married then-Crown Prince Akihito in 1959.

The nation's heart sank as the charming commoner princess grew gaunt and sombre as



Prince Naruhito

rumours swirled of her subjugation by the old empress, Nagako, behind the impenetrable wall of the moated Imperial Palace. There were hints of a nervous breakdown.

Such gossip is anathema to the fiercely protective courtiers of the Imperial Household Agency. They sought total secrecy for their highly delicate search for Prince Naruhito's bride.

The agency prevailed upon

Japan's main media organisations earlier this year to set ground rules on how the prince's search for a princess should be covered.

The resulting blackout, virtually an imperial gag order, has been in force for months with no sign of an engagement.

Unfortunately for the palace, all the pent-up media energy seems to have boiled over into sensationalist coverage of the British royal court turmoil, which could in turn further complicate the Tokyo matchmaking.

One weekly published a long list of young women royals who, like Princess Diana, appear to have found it difficult to lead a life ruled by stuffy protocol in the unflinching gaze of the scandal-oriented tabloids.

Japanese women's magazines, meanwhile, concocted features mixing their obvious sympathy for Princess Diana and her allegedly troubled, lonely life with the results of reader polls on what nice girls should look for in a perfect marriage things like intimacy, mutual respect and family bonding.

The message is clear: Steer clear of the aristocracy.

Prince Naruhito himself is well aware of this.

"I think anyone would have second thoughts," he said earlier this year. "The palace is a difficult place to enter because in some ways it is still backward."

Asterix races to rescue dying Alpine culture

By Andrew Long

Reuters

CHUR, Switzerland — Asterix the Gaul, comic book scourge of the Roman army, is helping to save an ancient Latin language and culture from extinction.

The 2,000 year-old Romansh language is spoken in the Alpine valleys of Graubünden, the canton (province) famous for exclusive ski resorts such as St Moritz.

As city jobs lure people from their mountain villages, the number of Romansh speakers has dwindled to around 50,000 Swiss, or less than one per cent of the population.

But efforts to preserve Romansh have sparked controversy in this complex, multilingual nation.

Goscinny and Uderzo's Asterix adventure Asterix In Switzerland is printed in Romansh, Grischun, a hybrid

language created from Romansh's five written idioms: Sursilvan, Vallader, Sumran, Puter and Sutsilvan.

Supporters of Rumantsch Grischun, devised by Zurich Professor Heinrich Schmid in 1982, say it is the only chance to reverse the decline of Romansh language and culture.

Bernard Cathomas, secretary of the Lia Rumantscha (Romansh League), likens the plight of minority languages to the process of natural selection: Giants such as English or French must eventually kill off smaller, weaker species like Romansh.

"It's like when a rare flower becomes extinct. The world becomes poorer, loses some of its colour, and the least we can do is try to delay the inevitable," he said in an interview.

The Lia, funded partly by the Swiss government, wants

to use the new language to reunite now scattered Romansh communities.

Recognising that children are the language's future, it hopes the comic books will edify them to use Rumantsch Grischun early.

Asterix visits the ancient Helvetians (Swiss) in Asterix Ed Els Helvets (Asterix In Switzerland), set ironically at the dawn of Rhaeto-Romansh civilisation in the first century B.C.

Not surprisingly, he finds "punctualitad" (punctuality), "buna aria" (mountain air) and "stailalva" (edelweiss) but looks in vain for "chachiel senza foras" (cheese without holes).

The new language is steadily winning official approval. But opponents have protested to the government, turning the issue from a local linguistic row into a national political debate.

Language is an emotive, complex issue in Switzerland,

a tiny country which has three official languages: French, Italian and German.

Romansh does have the status of being the fourth "national language" — conferred as a gesture of solidarity with the mountain-bound Romansh people in 1938 as the clouds of war gathered over Europe.

But supporters say such status is not enough. They want Romansh co-billed with the other three as an official language.

German speakers make up some 74 per cent of the population, French 20 per cent and Italian five per cent. Most also speak German, Italian or Romansh dialects. English is widely used as a lingua franca.

In most of Switzerland, everything from driving licences to washing powder bears information in French, German and Italian. In Chur, the canton's capital, German, not Romansh, is the norm.

Official language status would confer vital legal protection on a culture that has suffered centuries of gradual decline since the Romans annexed what was then Rhaetia in 15 B.C.

Romansh evolved over the centuries from Latin and the local Rhaetian and Celtic dialects, splitting into five idioms and countless dialects. Sister languages also survive in Italy.

Rumantsch Grischun is designed to complement, not compete with the five idioms. It already has its own dictionary, grammar and flourishing local literature.

But children are taught Romansh only until the age of 10, when German takes over. It is rarely taught at universities and there are only four Romansh newspapers, none daily.

Romansh was added to the Swiss passport in 1989 and has appeared on Swiss cur-

rency since the mid 1970s.

Despite opposition protests, the government says it will go on with its experiment of using Rumantsch Grischun as the language of communication with cantonal authorities.

Proposed changes to the Swiss constitution may at last give legal foundation to the motion of a "four-language Switzerland", and perhaps give Graubünden and other cantons greater autonomy over the use of languages in their territories.

But the changes would have to be put to a national popular vote, and even then Romansh would only become a "partially official" language — for government-canton relations only.

Mr. Cathomas remains determined. "Language is more than just communication," he says, "it is one's soul, one's roots, one's identity. It must be preserved."

Diary

Hong Kong and the Zerka free zone — The experience of a reporter in the desert

By Nermeen Murad

AN IMAGE of Hong Kong hung over the minds of two reporters as they headed towards Jordan's Free Zone at Zerka last week. Alas, the picture of a lively and rich island, where goods were traded speedily and freely, quickly gave way to a reality of several government bureaucrats guarding and operating what is more like a security complex than a duty free zone.

The change in imagery began just as the reporters' car drove past a long line of waiting cars and trucks in the middle of the Jordanian desert, where a stretch from some processing plant permeated the air.

At the gate, the process of visiting was luckily simple and easy. A guard asked the journalists, a local and a foreigner, where they were going, and they responded by saying that they wanted to see the man in charge. So, the poor guard waved them in, oblivious of what had waited in store for him.

The journalists arrived at the building housing the main offices and were duly led to the deputy director of the so-called Inspections' Department, who wasted no time in asking them what they were there for and started to write down a form detailing their names, the newspapers they worked for and the purpose of their visit. Then came the all-too-important question: "How did you get past the gate?" The intimidation process had started.

The two reporters, now taken to and arrived at the director's office, were asked to sit down and watch while the man who let them in through the gate was brought in. The hy-now scared poor guard heard a lecture on his laxness and his failure to do his job at the gate before he was warned that such behaviour could never be repeated, or else ... "Even regular information that you could possibly receive from the man on the street or from any newspaper you will not be able to receive from me," the director immediately told the two waiting journalists.

The audience included his two assistants and several other people waiting to see him. He proceeded to explain that journalists were required to get written permission from the headquarters in Amman and then be escorted by one of their staff to the free zone before information about the operation of the zone could be given out. But when one of the reporters reminded him that a story had just been written by a colleague from within the zone he had this to say: "Three people lost their jobs because of that report."

However, having made it that far that day, the other reporter tried to save the situation by suggesting obtaining authorisation over the phone and proceeded to make the necessary calls. During that time, a middle-aged man in a bedouin outfit suggested that the "American" and the "Jerusalemite" should be invited to lunch.

By now the two journalists realised that there was not any information to be obtained in that office. They had specifically said that they were not interested in any "secret" information but only in the types of procedures required of traders to trade in the free zone.

As they were leaving the building, however, they were lucky enough to run into a businessman they knew.

As he started explaining to them that the measures were now stricter and that the free zone has become air-tight as far as smuggling in concerned (whether to the local market or to neighbouring states), one of the employees came over and asked the two journalists to return to the director's office "and quickly."

There, the reporter who took notes was asked to hand over her notes because "I want to read them." The journalists obviously refused to do any such thing explaining that this information was collected while talking to people outside his office and that they were private papers. He finally budged, but not before asking his employees to make sure that the car carrying the journalists was escorted out of the "free" zone at once.

The reporters did finally leave the "free zone," their bags searched and all.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 23

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 N.B.A. Basketball

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

I Was A Mail Order Bride

Starring: Ted Wass and Ken Kimmings

Kate is a young and attractive journalist who is forced by her boss, the editor of a women's magazine, to place a marriage advertisement in the magazine. A young man answers her marriage proposal.

Friday, July 24

8:30 Please Don't Eat The Daisies

We're Bigger Than They Are

Who can tell the difference between the twins?

9:10 E.N.G.

Ghosts

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

Deceived By Flight

Inspector Morse solves the mystery of two murders within a cricket team.

Saturday, July 25

8:30 Super Bloopers And New Practical Jokes Ep. 9.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Saturday Variety

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Johnny Belinda

Starring: Richard Thomas and Dennis Quaid

The story of a deaf young girl who kills the man who raped her.

Sunday, July 26

8:30 Wings

Joe and Brian think they saw a UFO during a night flight.

9:00 Olympics-live

Gymnastic

10:00 News In English

10:20 Olympics — Summary

Monday, July 27

8:30 Close To Home

As One Door Opens

9:10 A Perfect Hero

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Family

Emilie

Although he is married to Anna, Johan Strauss falls in love with a girl called Emilie. Strauss and his mistress have children and his elder son Johan Jr. discovers their existence.

Tuesday, July 28

8:30 Acropolis Now

Easter Greek Style

Elizabeth prohibits her friend and employer Jim from betting on horse races because she does not want him to waste his money and the restaurant's profits on

betting.

9:00 Mr. Bean

9:30 Tex

The Wine Business

10:00 News In English

10:20 Olympics Live

11:00 Oscar Film

The Happy Ending

Starring: Jean Seamus and John Forsythe

A story about a woman who cannot achieve happiness after 15 years of marriage.

Wednesday, July 29

8:30 Olympics

Swimming Final

9:30 Wednesday Forum

10:00 News In English

10:20 Olympics Judo Final

11:00 In A Child's Name

When the badly beaten body of Theresa is found, the number one suspect is her husband.

The diet

By E. Yaghi

During summer, many things melt with the heat, but one infallible condition refuses to be influenced by an increase in temperature and this state is known in the layman's term as extra weight. Emily, a member of those happy persons who never worry about weight because her condition is past the bounds of hope, decided to go on a diet. The day before the tragedy of losing those extra pounds took place, Emily rushed out to the supermarkets to purchase the needed items. Some of the foods she bought were: artificial sweeteners with Aspartame, diet pepsi, whole wheat bread, chicken, fish tuna, lots of watermelon and split lentils.

That night, as she prepared her last normal meal, she sat with her children and husband enjoying the last rites of human food. One of her children turned to her and said: "Mom, are you really determined to stick with this diet?" With unwavering determination, she asserted: "Of course, why shouldn't I?"

Her husband eyed her with obvious cynicism and one raised brow. "Are you really going to stick with your diet? I don't think you can do it, but then sometimes when you make up your mind you often achieve surprising results!"

She looked scornfully at everyone and boasted: "Yes, I'm determined to let nothing stop or tempt me. Wait and see!"

But Emily was the only one in her family on a diet. She still whipped up regular meals for her famished husband and children but with different faithfulness. Then she would sit down at the table to consume her boring, meager diet dishes and salads while tempted by the food spread like a feast in front of her family. Whenever someone said, "I'm not hungry right now," or, "I don't like that!" she replied: "Oh, you don't know how lucky you are! Such delicious food and you don't even appreciate it." While she tried not to drool at the sight before her.

As sugar was completely out of the question and Emily was a terrible tea addict, she made hot steaming cups of tea and reluctantly dumped the horrible chemical-tasting artificial sweetener into her brew. To help satisfy her unquenchable thirst, she guzzled cans of diet pepsi only to experience that same bitter taste in her mouth as when she used the Aspartame. When she was famished, she dined on cucumbers and a tomato tossed in for luxury. The first day passed quietly enough and Emily lost one kilo. At least she felt her suffering had been rewarded and her efforts and abstentions heroic.

Day two started off with fruit for breakfast and sugarless tea. O.K., she would make it through this day too. She hopped off to work in fairly good spirits and whenever offered a sandwich or soda would decline with, "no thanks, I'm not hungry or thirsty." But when the offering party insisted, she admitted: "I can't, I'm on a diet."

Well, by the time she went home from work, Emily was literally starving. She prepared lunch and placed her favourite food, stuffed zucchini on the table. It looked so delicious, but she remained firm and didn't eat one single

little bite. "Ummmm" Everyone said, licking their mouths and fingers and smacking with delight. "You don't know what you're missing!"

She didn't even flinch, so determined was she to stick to her new regimen. Again, she drank cups of bitter tea and diet pepsi and munched on her cucumbers, hard meat and a small piece of whole wheat bread to the tune of clanking spoons and sighs of evident ecstasy. Another kilo faded away and she was gratified. On the third day, much the same procedure transpired. After work, she rushed home in a fit of famine. Her stomach growled, her mouth watered, but she fed her family even though the fumes of the banquet tantalised and tormented her while she ate her special rations. By now, it was the third day. That tea tasted more bitter than ever. The diet pepsi fizzled in her mouth like cold acid and sizzled in a groan to the bottom of nothing. Ravenously, she devoured every last morsel of designated fruit and rushed off to work. She returned home and put the food as usual but then stopped and stared as if in a trance at the vision before her. No, she wasn't going to give in. She refused to succumb to such temptations. Somehow, she got through that day which seemed like the longest in the year. She dragged herself about here and there and performed her usual duties in sheer drudgery and with no energy. "Gee, a cup of sweetened tea works wonders," she groaned, "it will be a long time before I can drink such tea again."

By the fourth day of her diet, she had lost three kilos. But after that, she didn't lose any more. On the last day of her diet, she crawled home, tired, hungry, exasperated and disgusted. She was starving, there was all this food in front of her and she hadn't lost any more weight. "That's it! That does it!" she exclaimed as she threw open the refrigerator door and began pulling out leftovers that had accumulated during the last three days. "I've had it. I'm going to make some 'real' hot tea with sugar and forget about those torturous times when human food was forbidden!"

"What's wrong, Mom, couldn't stick with your diet?" one child taunted.

Her husband entered the kitchen. Emily noticed the shocked look on his face as he asked, "That's it? But why? You were doing so well!"

She was very quick to justify her sudden indulgences and replied: "It's not fair to the rest of you. I'm eating special food that costs extra money. Besides, I didn't lose any more pounds and I'm sick of this tasteless food!"

Ice melts, salt dissolves, but Emily's weight remained the same. She's off her diet, back to being a tea addict with ten lumps of sugar to a cup, and while full, contemplates a day when she should seriously attempt a good practical method of losing extra flesh on a regimen fit for humans. In the meantime, Emily is happy, no, not thin, or trim, but happy as most fat people are, especially when she starts off her day with a delicious cup of syrupy red tea. As for her conscience, which used to tell her, "keep to your diet, Emily!" she's buried it with remarkable ease.

Dutch dictionary nears completion — after 100 years

By Caroline Brothers

LEIDEN, The Netherlands — More than a century since Volume A was published, lexicographers have nearly finished the first historical dictionary of modern Dutch. "We are now at the end of 'W'... that should be ready by Christmas," said Editor-in-Chief Fons Moerdijk. "Some of our editors have already begun work on the first words of 'Z'." Five generations of editors have culled references and quotations from 10,000 sources to fill the 36 volumes and 619 instalments published so far.

When complete, the dictionary will cover every word used in Dutch between 1500 and 1921, listing the origin and development of meanings and giving examples of usage.

The first part of Volume A was published in 1864, and the full volume 110 years ago. Mr. Moerdijk hopes the final instalment of "Z" will be out by 1998.

Priced at 1,500 guilders (\$880) in paperback or 2,000 guilders (\$1,170) in hard cover, the dictionary has a potential world readership of about 20 million Dutch

speakers.

The dictionary is similar to the Oxford English Dictionary which was published in 1928 after a mere 44 years' preparation. But the Dutch dictionary has more colloquialisms and quotations, Mr. Moerdijk said in an interview.

A team of editors compiles the quotations collected by researchers at the Institute for Dutch Lexicology in this ancient university town.

So far the dictionary spans 40,000 pages and stands three metres high when all volumes are stacked.

It is estimated to contain

between 500,000 and a million words, but nobody knows exactly how many entries there are.

"The first volumes have lots of entries printed beside rather than below one another, and that makes them difficult to count. You can't make a reliable estimate of how many words there are," Mr. Moerdijk said.

As befits a nation of farmers and barge-owners, the longest entry totals 43 pages for the word "trekken," meaning to pull, closely followed by 38 pages for the Dutch word for "foot" and 27 for "water."

Japanese anguish over foreigners in the bath-house

By Mark O'Neill

Reuters

KOFU, Japan — Foreigners just have no idea how to behave in a public bath — they wear underpants in the tub, wash out their clothes and lie around smoking.

So saying, a public bath-house in this pretty Japanese city in April barred entry to non-Japanese, causing embarrassment among city fathers who, like many counterparts across Japan, are keen to promote an image of internationalisation.

The Kami-Ishida Bath-House put up the ban notice after complaints from long-term local customers and said they feared catching diseases by sharing the tub with the newcomers.

It stayed up from a month until a national newspaper got wind of it.

Faced with damaging publicity, the city health department intervened, persuading the bath-house to remove the notice and produce printed leaflets in English, Chinese and other languages to explain Japanese bathing habits.

The Kami-Ishida Bath-House is not the only establishment to have barred non-Japanese. A hotel in neighbouring Nagano prefecture has put up a notice banning illegal foreign workers from its bath-house, while a games centre in a Tokyo suburb has excluded foreigners, saying they spent long hours there without spending any money.

These bans are aimed essentially at the mainly

Asian immigrants who have flooded into Japan since 1986 to the dirty, menial jobs in factories, construction sites, bars and restaurants which affluent Japanese no longer wish to do.

Explaining his exclusion notice, Kami-Ishida Manager Nobuhiro Takahashi said foreigners were ignorant of, or just ignored, traditional Japanese bath-house etiquette.

This lays down that you first shower, washing and rinsing yourself thoroughly using the taps surrounding the bath, and only then, completely naked, do you enter the tub, where you relax, chat, curse your boss or just day-dream.

Taking a dip in your underwear or covered in soap is just not on.

Kami-Ishida is a modern bath-house with indoor and outdoor tubs surrounded by decorative coloured rocks. Well-scrubbed and relaxed after a long immersion, customers can stroll just a few yards to sushi bar run by the same management.

The banning notice was partly a result of the acute need to attract more clients, a dilemma facing all 28 bath-houses left in Kofu, a city of 200,000 in Yamanashi Prefecture which only two decades ago boasted about 70.

Bath-houses used to be a necessity for millions of Japanese, but now nearly all homes have baths, so surviving establishments must rely on the poor, on students, foreign workers and those who go simply to enjoy the

space, comfort and sociability.

"We are in a declining industry," said Haruji Tanaka, 69, whose family started the Takenoyu Bath-House in another part of Kofu back in 1928. Mr. Tanaka has seen his weekly clientele drop over the past year from 1,200 to 1,000.

The Takenoyu Bath-House, too, has received complaints about foreigners.

One evening a year ago, Mr. Tanaka's daughter Masako explained, a Japanese woman emerged from the sauna said she and other customers would no longer come to the bath-house because they did not want to enter the tub after the Asians.

"Even if they say they do not have AIDS, we don't know what kind of illnesses they have," the woman said angrily. "In future, I will take a bath at home."

For the Tanakas, facing a declining clientele and the cost of putting children through university, it was a painful dilemma.

Ms. Nasako learned from the local health department that AIDS could not be transmitted in a bath. The family decided it could not exclude foreigners.

"We never had this problem before with whites," she said.

"No-one complained about them, but they do about people with dark skin. We feel the same towards all foreigners but, unfortunately, many Kofu people look up to whites and down on other Asians, people from the Mid-

dle East and Africans."

Husband Toshio recalled how it took 15 minutes to persuade two Iranians, who wash dishes in a city hotel, that they must remove their underpants before entering the tub. While they debated, the other customers looked on in amazement.

There were just 2,182 foreigners living legally in Kofu at the end of 1985. By the end of last year, the number had risen to 6,212 — not counting the hundreds of Iranians, Pakistanis and South East Asians living there illegally.

Toshio said only a small number of foreigners flouted Japanese customs, and they should be taught the correct way to behave.

"But people have prejudices. They think all the Asian men are illegal workers, that all Asian women work in bars and all Europeans and Americans dress in suits and have white collar jobs."

One Chinese, who works in a local watch factory and often goes to public bath-houses, had little sympathy for local prejudices.

"Japanese should not be so arrogant," he said. "They don't mind about Asian women when they go on sex tours in Bangkok and Manila. After World War II, they used prostitutes to attract U.S. soldiers to bath-houses and earn foreign exchange."

"They weren't so concerned about cleanliness then. But, now they have become a big economic power, they start to look down on their neighbours," he added.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, July 23

1588 — English army assembles at Tilbury to repel invasion of England by Spanish Armada.

1595 — Spanish land at Cornwall, England, and burn Mousehold and Penzance before returning to their ships.

1631 — Sweden's King Gustavus II repulses imperialist force at Werben, Russia.

1759 — Russians under Saltykov defeat Prussians at Kay in eastern Germany, and one-fourth of Prussian army of 27,000 is lost.

1785 — Prussia's Frederick the Great forms Die Furstenbund (League of German Princes).

1882 — Koreans attack Japanese legation in Seoul, provoking Chinese intervention.

1894 — Japanese troops seize palace in Seoul, Korea.

1913 — "Second revolution" breaks out in south China.

1914 — Austria and Hungary issue ultimatum to Serbia after assassination of Archduke Ferdinand.

1945 — Marshal Henri Philippe Petain is put on trial, charged with betraying France in World War II.

1952 — General Mohammad Neguib seizes power in Egypt.

1954 — Indochina settlement is approved by France's National Assembly.

1958 — Queen Elizabeth names four women to peerages — first women to sit in Britain's House of Lords.

1974 — Greece's military rulers announce they will turn nation back to civilian rule, and Constantine Caramanlis returns from self-imposed exile and is sworn in as premier.

1988 — Iran accuses Iraq of pushing deep into Iranian territory.

1990 — As rebel forces draw to within one mile of presidential palace, Liberian President Samuel Doe refuses to leave until civil war is decided.

1991 — Draft of new platform for Soviet Communist Party is published, calling for private property, economic

integration into world market and freedom of religion.

Friday, July 24

1545 — French fleet leaves the Solent in England unscathed after a successful attack.

1704 — British capture Gibraltar during War of Spanish Succession.

1712 — Dutch are defeated by French at Denain, France, and join Anglo-French truce.

1799 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Turks at Aboukir in Egypt.

1847 — Convention of Gramido ends civil war in Portugal.

1850 — Schleswig-Holstein insurgents, whose territory was divided by Peace of Berlin between Denmark and Prussia. Are defeated at Isted.

1922 — League of Nations Council approves mandates for Palestine and Egypt.

1942 — British bombers devastate German cities of Frankfurt and Mannheim in World War II.

1946 — United States makes first underwater test of an atomic bomb off atoll of Bikini in Pacific Ocean.

1969 — U.S. Apollo 11 astronauts, first men to walk on moon, splash down safely in Pacific Ocean.

1970 — Sultan Said of Muscat and Oman is overthrown by his son Sultan Qabus.

1971 — State of emergency is declared in Sudan during government crisis.

1973 — Four men who hijacked Japan Airlines plane release the 137 occupants, then blow it up and are arrested in Libya.

1976 — U.S. spacecraft Viking 1 lands on Mars and starts tests to determine whether life exists on the planet.

1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat orders his troops to observe immediate ceasefire in fighting with Libya.

1988 — Soviet military officer expresses doubt that Afghan army can hold its own after Soviet troops leave country.

1990 — Liberal Party,

which controls 21 seats in 400-member east German parliament, quits coalition government in a dispute about how united German elections should be held.

Saturday, July 25

1593 — France's King Henry IV becomes a Roman Catholic.

1689 — France's King Louis XIV declares war on Britain.

1792 — Austria's Duke of Brunswick issues manifesto threatening destruction of Paris if France's royal family is harmed.

1830 — France's King Charles X issues ordinances controlling the press, dissolving legislative chambers and changing electoral system.

1878 — China's first diplomatic mission to United States arrived in Washington.

1907 — Japan obtains protectorate over Korea.

1920 — French forces occupy Damascus, Syria; Greeks under King Alexander occupy Adrianople.

1934 — Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss is assassinated in unsuccessful Nazi coup attempt in Austria.

1943 — Benito Mussolini is forced to resign as premier of Italy during World War II.

1956 — Italian liner Andrea Doria and Swedish ship Stockholm collide off coast of New England, and 50 lives are lost.

1963 — United States, Soviet Union and Britain conclude treaty prohibiting nuclear testing in atmosphere, space or under water.

1968 — Pope Paul VI bans all artificial birth control methods for Roman Catholics.

1971 — Doctor Christian Barnard transplants two lungs and heart into man in Cape Town, South Africa, and the operation is described as successful.

1973 — Federal judge rules that U.S. government must halt bombing of Cambodia on grounds it is "unauthorised and unlawful."

1990 — Liberian rebels attack airfield in Monrovia, closing off that city's last link

to outside world. 1991 — Mikhail Gorbachev tells Communist Party leader that building communism in the Soviet Union is no longer a realistic goal and that the party must reject "outdated ideological dogmas."

Sunday, July 26

1821 — Turkey and Russia sever relations after Turkey refuses to protect Christian subjects.

1891 — France annexes South Sea island of Tahiti.

1926 — Philippines legislature calls for plebiscite on independence, but it is vetoed by U.S. governor-general.

1942 — British Air Force stages heavy raid on Hamburg in Germany in World War II.

1945 — Britain, United States and China demand Japan's unconditional surrender as terms for peace in World War II.

1952 — Egypt's King Farouk abdicates in favour of infant son, Fuad.

1953 — Fidel Castro begins revolt in Cuba, attacking army barracks at Santiago.

1956 — Egypt's President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalises Suez Canal, and Britain, France and United States announce financial retaliations.

1974 — Constantine Caramanlis, new Greek premier, forms civilian cabinet after seven years of military rule in Greece.

1984 — Kuwait's defence minister says Emir of Kuwait has ordered air force to shoot on sight any intruder whose planes that violate national air space.

1989 — Poland's president rules out turning over government to solidarity.

1990 — Iraq agrees to pull thousands of troops back from Kuwait border after Kuwait agrees to end over-production of

Depardieu as Christopher Columbus

A French actor, and not just any one, — Gerard Depardieu — has been chosen to play the title role of Christopher Columbus. This European superproduction has nothing to envy Hollywood.

PARIS — On Oct. 12 next, 500 years to the day after the event, the world will celebrate the discovery of America. On that day, the super-film Christopher Columbus, by the British director Ridley Scott (who made Alien and Blade Runner) will come out simultaneously on 5,000 screens in old Europe and in the new world.

After 18 weeks of shooting, mainly in Costa Rica, the film is already "in the can". In it, Gerard Depardieu portrays the Genoese navigator and all those who have

viewed the film agree that he is "terrific". For Ridley Scott, "Depardieu is dynamite. A colossus breathing power and emotion throughout the work."

According to its authors, Christopher Columbus (with the huge budget of \$54 million) will be just as much "the reconstruction of a fabulous sea adventure as the evocation of Europe at the dawn of the Renaissance" and the tale of the shock between the two worlds.

We are also promised that we shall not forget the picture

of the hero on the gangplank of the Santa Maria which was rebuilt identically by the Glasgow shipyard. Sweating beneath his admiral's cape, he transfigures himself at the sublime instant when he is going to land "in India", at the end of his crazy undertaking.

The integral actor

It has been said of Depardieu that he is the "integral actor". Which other actor could have portrayed the obsessive crudeness of the ruffian in Les Valseuses, Danton's fire; Rodin's inspired brutality, Tartuffe's ambiguity and Cyrano's flow of words?

With 65 films in a career of 14 years, this prodigious actor has elevated himself to the top. His admirers — intellectuals, factory and office

workers, housewives, etc. vote for this hero of our time, in opinion polls. They do not just go to see a film, they go to see a "Depardieu".

This provincial was born into a needy family: "We only ate meat in the first days of the month, when we received our family allowance," he recounts. His father drank and his mother was always giving birth. "I remember her as always being pregnant."

He had a riotous youth and ran away for the first time when he was 12. He wandered around, became a gang leader and terrorized people with blows of a bicycle chain. Till that day in 1965 (he was 17) when he was given a role in a short film. That saved him. His new mates, who were young actors, took him on

the boards of Cafe Theatre.

His second film was in 1971. It was the great success of Les Valseuses by Bertrand Blier. The critics unanimously acclaimed "the charming new ruffian of French cinema", and "the most gifted actor of his generation". Since then, Depardieu has been snowed under with offers. He invests himself fully in all kinds of characters: People who are lost, violent, unstable, tragic or comic.

After Columbus, Napoleon

A first-rate actor, Depardieu just as easily wears the spahi uniform (in Fort Saganne, by A. Corneau), the padded outfit of a dog-trainer (in Les Chiens by A. Jessua), the surgeon's gown (Sept morts Sur Ordonnance by J. Rouffio), or the hump of Jean De

Florette (by C. Berri). One of his latest incarnations, that of Cyrano by J.P. Rappeneau, gained him an international triumph.

He always brilliantly enters the part of a pitiless gangster, a member of the resistance in the last war or a paranoiac who cuts off his private parts one night during a fit. Whether he is funny or pathetic, pitiful or magnificent, Depardieu is always the same with his wrestler's shoulders and his "peasant-actor's mug". And yet, he is never alike.

Next winter, in a film by Claude Berri, he will be the leader of the rebelling miners in Zola's Germinal, while waiting to play Napoleon and the Balzac, two roles which are being considered for him — L'Actualite en France.



Gerard Depardieu during the filming of Christopher Columbus

Swiss host unique show of Picasso's Rose Period

By Hanns Neuerbourg
The Associated Press

BERN, Switzerland — The world's only country where a popular vote decided the purchase of Picasso paintings is playing host to an exhibit of artistic landmarks in his ascent to fame.

"The Rose Period — 1905-1906" at Bern's Kunstmuseum combines more than 200 oil paintings, pastel drawings, sketches and other works Picasso did before his move to cubism. On loan from more than 50 museums and private collectors, they are believed to represent more than \$600

million in value.

The show comes 25 years after Basel Burghers, in a referendum forced by opponents of the purchase, voted to spend 6 million Swiss francs (then \$1.5 million) to buy two Picasso paintings.

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) was so flattered that he gave Basel four more works as gifts. One of the two bought in 1967, The Two Brothers, is displayed at Bern as typical of the Rose Period.

That phase in Picasso's career, so known for its new lightly coloured style, began after he moved to Paris in 1904. It followed the moody melancholy of the so-called

Blue Period, designating the predominant colour, which began when he turned 20 and was still living in his native Spain.

The Repast Frugal, a 1904 etching depicting an emaciated couple in a tavern, is a sort of farewell to the gloom filling his early works.

The most impressive painting of the new, more optimistic phase, the large 1905 The Family Of Saltimbanques, did not make the voyage from Washington, D.C., to Switzerland because it's considered too fragile to move.

Top billing at Bern goes to The Harem, on loan from Cleveland's Museum of Art.

It was done after the sudden sale of 30 paintings to Paris dealer Ambroise Vollard permitted Picasso to leave for Spain for more than two months in the summer 1906.

Accompanying him on that trip was the beautiful Fernande Olivier, the first of his mistresses whose features left a lasting imprint on his works. Slightly older and taller than Picasso, she stayed with him for seven years.

Her role in his budding career is prominently reflected in the exhibit. The painting's four nudes in different poses are all modeled on her. She's identified on several other exhibits and prob-

ably was the model for various others. The show also includes a bronze head of her.

The Harem, Picasso's key work of 1906, was done at Gosol, a mountain village in the Pyrenees, close to the French border and only accessible by mule.

Their stay there seems to have filled him with happiness. In his sketchbook he noted then that he was feeling like a "tenor who hits a note higher than the one in the score."

Rivaling Olivier for Picasso's attention at Gosol was Josep Fontdevila, an ex-smuggler and keeper of the

inn where they stayed. Six pictures of him shown at Bern include one bought recently by New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Kunstmuseum Director Hans Christoph Voo Tavel said he expects about 100,000 visitors at the exhibit which closes on July 26. More than 200,000 people saw a show eight years ago focusing on Picasso's Blue Period.

To Mr. Voo Tavel, Picasso's works during 1905 and 1906 "highlight and complete the genius' early phase." A year later, the history of art took a new turn when his monumental "Demoselles d'Avignon" heralded cubism.

Play to promote peace provokes angry reactions

By Tim Klass
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — With Yom Kippur fast approaching, God has made little progress with Yitzhak, an Israeli army soldier, or Ismail, a nonviolent Palestinian philosophy student.

The two are the main characters in Abraham's Land: The Land Of Milk And Honey, a musical produced by Seattle's New Image Theatre to provoke discussion on the search for peace in the Middle East.

"I've had enough," God announces, wheeling away the shopping cart that contains a fortune-telling computer and coffee urn. "I'm off to Belfast."

Now they're on their own. Yitzhak: "When you raise a rock, I see a sea of faces stretching from here to Baghdad to Tripoli."

Ismail: "When you raise a gun, do you know what we see? We see the Nazis."

What do audiences see? There was strong applause at the end of the performance recently in a church hall, but about half a dozen visiting Israelis and their hosts rose shouting in anger.

"You should have shown a PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) attack," said Via Lotan, who lives north of Tel Aviv. "Only one side was shown in this play."

Lotan, her husband, Rony Lotan, and the rest refused pleas in Hebrew and English to stay for the post-play discussion. Roughly two-thirds of the 80 or 90 playgoers did remain to talk with the actors.

"We were too furious, and that would have played into their hands," she said in a telephone interview later.

During an earlier performance an Arab woman was no less vehement, said director and company founder Hanna Eady. The woman said the play was nonsense.

"She said, 'this is nothing compared with what I see from my window everyday. I send my son to the drugstore and he gets shot at by soldiers,'" Eady recalled.

Abraham's Land, which runs through Aug. 1, is a collaborative effort. It involves Eady, who completed graduate school programme, in theatre last month: Lauren Marshall, a lawyer-turned-playwright; and composer David Nafissian, whom Marshall knew from the local playwrights guild.

Eady is a Greek Orthodox Christian Arab from Israel whose wife is an American Jew. Marshall is Jewish. Nafissian, reared in a secular Jewish home in Westchester County, New York, has an Iranian Muslim grandmother.

Marshall approached Eady early last year after seeing his university production of

Seeing Double, a San Francisco mime troupe musical on the infatuation in commedia dell'arte style.

Until the ending, Abraham's Land looks more like a Gilbert and Sullivan production.

Ismail, scorned by friends and family for warning against hate and violence, is shot out of fear by Yitzhak during a demonstration.

Believing Ismail to be dead, Yitzhak steals his identification card, winds up being mistaken for a Palestinian and is jailed and tortured.

Ismail regains consciousness without any memory of his identity and soon is taken for an Israeli.

A group calling itself "Ismail's Hand" claims responsibility for a series of bombings. Yitzhak is released and followed by soldiers who hope he will lead them to the bombers as he tries to find Ismail's family.

When he is spotted in the Gaza Strip and identified as the man who shot Ismail, a mob seeks revenge. A fleeing Yitzhak finally encounters Ismail, who has regained most of his memory and is trying to find his way home.

Ismail's relatives arrive and prepare to kill Yitzhak. Yitzhak shows them Ismail. Ismail is immediately shot dead by the Israeli soldiers.

"I was very calm for three-quarters of the play, let's say. I could accept it was something that even Jewish leftists from the United States might think," Rony Lotan said, "but not the end."

Israeli soldiers face trial for wrongful killings, but Arab terrorists don't face sanctions from their countries or the PLO for killing children and other civilians, Via Lotan said.

Playwright Marshall, who spent 2½ weeks with Nafissian in Israel last November on an Earthsteward's Network Citizen Diplomacy tour, said she would have liked to include more of the Israeli sense of living amid hostile Arab nations.

"I took ultimately what was a less balanced approach and a more risky approach... knowing that I was going to be crucified by my own community for doing it," she said.

When we were showing people drafts of the script, as many people said it was a pro-Israel play as a pro-Palestinian play," Nafissian said.

Eady said many of his Arab friends were upset by the portrayal of an Israeli soldier as a hero.

He wrote in the programme that he founded the theatre "to produce new, passionate audiences who strive to promote peace and justice" and show them "a true image of all oppressed people around the world."

Lebanese oud player jazzes up Arabic music

By Andrea Shalal-Esa
Reuters

MUNICH — Rabih Abou Khalil is revolutionising Arabic music and his records are sold all over Europe and America, but he has never played a concert in the Arab World.

The 35-year-old Lebanese musician fled the civil war in his home country in 1978, arriving in Munich to study classical flute.

He recorded his first flute album in 1982, but soon abandoned it in favour of the oud, a five or six double-stringed traditional Arabic instrument, which is similar to the European lute and the Greek buzouki.

"I had the typical Third World complex when I came to Europe and thought nobody would want to hear

oud," he told Reuters. "But then I realised I played more naturally on the oud and people were far more interested in Arabic music than in yet another non-European flute."

His instinct was sound. Abou Khalil has since released six other albums and two more will follow this year. He plays concerts throughout Europe, including Germany, Greece and Italy, and will travel to Hong Kong in 1993 for the Asian Arts Festival.

His compositions are based on traditional Arabic rhythms, some dating back centuries. But the sound is jazzy and fresh, with musicians from the United States, India, South America and other parts of the world coming together to create a unique international sound.

Yet Abou Khalil has never been invited to play a concert in any Arab country, something he blames on the increasing influence of Western pop music.

"Arabic music is in a period of decline," he says. "All the groups have electronic instruments and electric pianos, but hardly anyone plays the oud anymore."

Musicians are not protected by copyright in Arab countries and bootleg recordings proliferate, forcing artists to charge extremely high prices for concerts. "And that means that music is increasingly divorced from the people," he added.

Abou Khalil is outspoken about his frustration about pop music and the uncritical copying of it in non-Western countries.

"Wherever you go, what-

ever you do... there is always pop music playing," he laments. "It's become a sort of tyranny... like only getting hamburgers to eat."

Pop music is increasingly displacing traditional music throughout the developing world, Abou Khalil says. "Pop music is like a wooden leg. People are not learning to walk properly."

At home, Abou Khalil listens to Arabic music, as well as jazz, classical and the occasional rock musician such as Frank Zappa. But he never listens to his own music.

In fact, after listening to music, composing and practising for some eight to 10 hours a day, he tends to prefer silence in his spare time.

In time, he hopes the Third World will develop a greater sense of pride in its own

traditions and that industrialised countries will accept music from other parts of the world as more than just a curiosity. "Music really is multi-cultural," he says.

Abou Khalil, born into an established Beirut family in 1957, has extended the concept to his own life. His wife is Slovenian and they live in Munich with their two bilingual children.

Professionally, he sees himself bridging the gap between Arabic and other music. Charlie Mariano, Sonny Fortune and Glenn Moore are among his regular U.S. jazz collaborators, but he also works with many well-known musicians from Arab countries, India, Mexico and elsewhere.

"I am trying to build an intersection on a dead-end

street," he says. "And I am convinced that every street can be extended."

The unique blend of music and the intensity of Abou Khalil's concerts have won him fans and good reviews throughout Europe.

"The enthusiasm and intensity of their collective playing is infectious and at the same time, makes a lot of sense," said Germany's conservative Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper in a recent review.

Abou Khalil has come a long way from his first concerts, where "some guests took off their shoes and lit incense sticks because they thought it was going to be some kind of new age experience. You can't imagine the smell."

"These days they keep their shoes on," he laughs.

Joan Plowright finds life begins anew at 60

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Once a leading lady for her late husband, Laurence Olivier, and other English greats, Joan Plowright now has a versatile career with a wide variety of roles.

She played the American mother who plotted with Tracy Ullman to murder Kevin Kline in I Love You To Death and the stern Polish Jewish mother in Avalon.

Her new film is the English-made Enchanted April, in which some Britishers find their lives transformed on a

vacation to Italy.

"My character is a dragon lady at the beginning, a lady who has opted out from life," she said. "Because she's a widow and 60, she figures she's no longer of any use of the world, and she's going to live in the past. She's going to think about better times, and better men."

Enchanted April, based on a novel by Elizabeth Voo Arnim, is further evidence of the English fascination with Italy, from Keats and Shelley to E.M. Forster.

"It's the scenery, it's the sun, it's so very different from England," Miss Plow-

right theorised. "We suffer from the damp and the fog and the cold. And I suppose the English tend to be more sensuous in Italy. They begin to lose their inhibitions."

"There's also an openness, a kind of demonstrative capacity which the Italians have. The English have their stiff upper lip and are supposed to act very properly all the time. The sight of these extrovert people in Italy is quite a joyous experience."

Miss Plowright grew up in Scunthorpe, where her father was a newspaper editor. She trained at the Old Vic Theatre school, and soon she

was appearing in London with the greats of the English theatre.

She remembers being in awe of them, adding: "But it isn't a sort of treacherous feeling. It really is a curiosity as to how they work. If you're an actor with any belief in yourself and you have a certain amount of ambition, you want to match that, not be frightened of it."

In 1957, she played Olivier's daughter in Joho Osborne's play The Entertainer. They were married in 1960 in Connecticut while both were in hit Broadway plays, she in A Taste Of

Hooey, he in Becket.

At 62, Miss Plowright is about Mrs. Fisher's age in Enchanted April, but she has definitely not retired from the world.

Aside from her busy career, she has "pleasurable duties" with the Olivier Foundation which provides scholarships and encourages drama and education. She's also busy with her three children — all of whom have gone into theatre — and two grandchildren.

She said with a laugh that she wanted to keep them out of show business, explaining: "We told them they ought

to choose something else. I think a lot of us in the business do the same thing. You know so much (about the hazards, you know the pitfalls, you know how hard a life it is. You know that your children who have only seen you at a successful time in your life must think that it's quite easy."

"So you warn them at the beginning. And of course ours did see the other side in our lives and our friends' lives, as well as appalling notices. You have to accept those along with the good."

Dracula lives, says undead fan club

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

DUBLIN — Fans of Dracula's creator, Bram Stoker, complain Ireland has never given enough recognition to the Dublin author whose novel launched an international horror industry and spawned more than 500 films.

"Every summer Ireland is awash with academics seeking the meaning of life in

James Joyce's Ulysses and the essence of romanticism in W.B. Yeats' poetry. But Stoker?

Now Dracula has struck back.

The Bram Stoker Society has just staged its own summer school, here, attracting Dracula buffs from the United States and Britain as well as Ireland.

"Fair enough, let's have Joyce and Yeats celebrated.

But Stoker deserves a place in Irish literary life too," argues the Society's chairman, Leslie Shepard.

Among those attending the summer school was Californian vampire expert Vincent Hillier who has offered a \$10,000 reward to anyone who can produce the resurrected corpse of a vampire in a human state.

"People kept ringing me and asking for air tickets to

California. I said if they were real vampires, they would have been able to fly there under their own steam," he said.

Delegates listened to worthy treatises on the history of the Gothic novel, watched old Dracula films and went on walking tours of Clontarf, the Dublin suburb where Stoker was born.

"Stoker would have been astonished at having started a

Dracula cult. I never dies. The book has even been published in Irish," Shepard said.

In his 19th century masterpiece, Stoker modelled his horrific hero on Vlad the Impaler, a 15th century Wallachian tyrant with a vampire-like passion for blood.

From that emerged Transylvania's Count Dracula, swooping through the night with his black cape and blood-soaked fangs. His "un-

dead" corpse would rise from a coffin as darkness fell, take a vampire's form and suck the blood from live victims.

The only defence was a clove of garlic, a crucifix or to plunge a stake through Dracula's heart.

Mr. Shepard's society is now campaigning for Ireland to release a commemorative stamp to mark Stoker's achievements.



Dr. Maurizio Ceccarelli

New technique blasts cellulite

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Dr. Maurizio Ceccarelli likens his invention to a high-speed propeller under water, which creates masses of bubbles as it roars into life. "The force of the bubbles is such that they actually eat into the metal of the propeller," he says. Smiling genially, this well-groomed doctor describes how he has applied the principle to get rid of an unedifying and unglamorous human problem — the build-up of pockets of fat.

The doctor's Roman lady clients are thrilled with the results, he says. Now, with just a handful of sessions at his Rome studio, they can say goodbye to the dreaded cellulite, the unsightly orange-

peel effect on thighs, stomach and sometimes knees. Dr. Ceccarelli's new technique quite literally bombards the fat to bits. It uses ultrasonic energy waves to destroy the fatty deposits that lie beneath the skin and create that ugly puckered effect. He swears the treatment does not hurt. "There is just slight discomfort when the needles enter the flesh," he says, still smiling reasonably.

As he talks, Dr. Ceccarelli holds a five-pronged needle, the instrument of torture or salvation — it depends which way you look at it. "My patients are extremely happy with the treatment," he says. "These are people who want results so badly, they are prepared to do anything. Often they would go much

further than I would ever let them."

In fact, as colleagues in the cosmetic medicine industry have been quick to acknowledge, Dr. Ceccarelli's technique is less traumatising than the other tried and tested treatment for cellulite — liposuction, which involves sucking out the fat with a machine not unlike a high-powered vacuum cleaner. Liposuction has the advantage of giving instantaneous results, but it also involves anaesthetics. "It is to all effects a surgical operation, with all the problems that entails," said the doctor. "Not everyone is happy to go through that."

Ultra-sound has already been used in cosmetic medicine. Dr. Ceccarelli has taken the principle one step further. "I began studying how it works and I thought of using this process actually inside the tissue itself," he said.

Since he presented a paper on the technique at an international conference in Rio de Janeiro last year, colleagues around the world have begun introducing it in their own offices.

The Latin doctor has done extensive trials at the University of Aquila in central Italy, where he is professor of cosmetic medicine. There, he first tried using the technique to eliminate benign tumours, cysts of fat that sometimes form under the skin. The results were encouraging. "It was like exploding a bomb in a room," he said. The tumours completely disappeared after four or five sessions.

Breaking down deposits of cellulite takes slightly longer — up to 12 sessions, but once treated the fat pockets are gone for good. The treatment works by injecting a watery solution into the fatty area and then passing ultrasonic waves through the liquid. The action of the high-energy water bubbles below the surface of the skin has an explosive effect on the fat deposits. "Of course, it damages the tissue," acknowledges Dr. Ceccarelli. "But there are some people who say 'I am not a happy person living with these pockets of fat on my thighs'."

In a profession that includes scores of charlatans with no medical diplomas, Dr. Ceccarelli is a bona fide surgeon. As well as teaching at the University of Aquila he lectures young doctors at Rome's Fatebenefratelli Hospital which now runs a four-year programme on cosmetic medicine. He is choosy about the techniques he uses, about the type of person to whom he prescribes them — many cellulite sufferers are victims of circulatory problems, he says, and cannot be treated with the fat-blasting method.

No magic cure

"Unfortunately, this profession is full of people who want to make money by exploiting the unease of the kind of people they are dealing with," said Dr. Ceccarelli, whose own even good looks are doubtless an asset. "I always tell my patients to beware of doctors who promise them magic results. I tell them to go anywhere they like for treatment, but to make sure the techniques are explained fully before they start. Because in my experience, there is no such thing as a magic cure."

The Italian doctor is indulgent towards the human weakness that makes a growing number of women — and men — turn to cosmetic medicine each year in an effort to cheat time and rid themselves of double chins, sagging eyelids, bulging stomachs and flabby thighs. That, of course, is his job, one he chose after 10 years of working in normal medicine, where he specialised in heart disease. "I don't mind con-



An injection of placenta aims at restoring smoothness to the skin of this patient.

fessing that my chief physician looked askance when I told him eight or nine years ago that I wanted to go into cosmetic medicine," he said. "But this field actually gives me much greater satisfaction because I am talking to people who are healthy as I evaluate their physical condition. It's a much more equal relationship. People who come to me are highly motivated and know exactly what they want. Sick people are generally in a state of subordination to the doctor."

Dr. Ceccarelli says he anticipates the interest in cosmetic medicine to continue as prices come down and techniques improve. That is partly because women's role is changing, he says, from the child-rearer who rarely leaves the house to a person who is often more assertive and concerned about her appearance. But it is also because humans are living much longer than they ever did before. "In the past 100 years the average life expectancy has doubled, from 40 years to 75 or 80," said the doctor.

"These days, a third of a woman's life is lived after she reaches the menopause, at about 50. Our species is not really ready for that. We have to take better care of ourselves. We are discovering that it is not just important to live longer. We also need quality of life."

Women of all shapes, ages and sizes turn up at Dr. Ceccarelli's clinic, hoping to recapture the fresh looks of their youth or to hold on to the ones they have got.

"They range from 20 to 60 years old," said the doctor. "Though 40 is the most common age. That's the moment when women tend to take a fresh look at themselves, from the inside and the outside." Some mothers even bring their daughters. "They want to catch them in time," said Dr. Ceccarelli. "Cosmetic medicine is really the ultimate type of preventative medicine. It's also about diet, paying attention to things like too much exposure to the sun. If you treat your skin well, you can reach 60 without ever needing anything in the way of cosmetic surgery."

In order to keep their skin looking fresh and luminous, around 100 of Dr. Cec-

carelli's patients regularly submit themselves to facial injections of extracts of human placenta. This, he says, is his most popular skin therapy and is now widely used around the world. It may not be a pretty sight to watch as the doctor inserts his hypodermic under the eyes, around the mouth, in the centre of the forehead and cheeks. But there are few complaints from the patients. "Do you think so many women would do it if it really hurt that much?" he asks.

The placenta extracts provide a biological stimulation to the cells of the skin, says Dr. Ceccarelli. The effect is a gradual improvement in elasticity and tone, as the skin is moisturised from within.

"It doesn't remove wrinkles. It prevents them from forming," said Dr. Ceccarelli. "Those already there become muted. I compare it to ironing a dress. The smaller creases fall out and the more stubborn ones remain."

"Wrinkle-filler"

The stubborn wrinkles can be removed with injections of collagen, a substance taken from beneath the skin of cows and oxen now extensively used in cosmetic medicine. What Dr. Ceccarelli refuses to use is silicone, increasingly popular as a "wrinkle-filler," in spite of the raging controversy over its use for breast implants (see the silicone debate).

According to Dr. Ceccarelli, silicone injections are "highly undesirable" and carry a strong risk that the patient will end up looking worse than before.

Silicone can become displaced beneath the skin's surface, creating ugly lumps and bumps, he says. "At that point, the only way to get it out is through surgery." A frequent second side-effect is the formation of fibrous lumps under the skin where the silicone has been injected. This is the body's own natural way of trying to expel what is, in effect, a totally artificial substance. "The size of these fibrous capsules varies from patient to patient, but if they are large and unsightly, once again, the only solution is the knife,"

said the doctor. "That is why I always use collagen. It has its disadvantages — it does not last a long time and it costs a great deal — but at least if you don't like the effects, after three or four months you look like you did before."

That is, of course, also one of the major drawbacks of certain types of cosmetic treatments. Both collagen and placenta injections must be continued for life for the effects to be maintained. "It's true, you become addicted," concedes the doctor. Dr. Ceccarelli says he makes a point of explaining the pros and cons before he treats any patients. He also tries to persuade some women that they should hang on to some of their wrinkles. "There are normal lines of expression on everyone's face and it is important to come to terms with that and not to want to look like a doll with a blank face," he said. "But it can be difficult for some people who have reached a certain age to accept it."

The doctors' patients pay between 100,000 and 150,000 lire — \$85 to \$125 — for each session, whether it be for cellulite or skin treatment. The cellulite problem can usually be dealt with once and for all in a course of 5 to 12 sittings, he says. The facial injections must be administered once a month, after an initial period, when they are given once-a-week.

Staying beautiful is still a pricey business, but the fees are within the budgets of a growing number of people. "My patients used to be almost exclusively from the higher socio-economic brackets, but these days, I'm seeing a wider range of people," said the doctor. Among them is a small but significant number of men, especially from the world of show business and business management.

Inevitably, Dr. Ceccarelli's office sees its fair share of well-dressed women, with plenty of money and time on their hands, people for whom having a cosmetic surgeon is a social necessity as much as anything else. Said the doctor: "Of course I get a lot of spoilt women with a great deal of money, but a spoilt woman is an unhappy one" — World News Link.

The Silicone Debate

ROME — Fears about the possible harmful side-effects to women with silicone breast implants have led to a temporary ban on the technique in the U.S. The American Food and Drug Administration has ordered a moratorium pending new research into whether silicone can cause cancer in women who have implants fitted, either after breast surgery or for purely cosmetic reasons.

But over on the other side of the Atlantic, European doctors say the U.S. body is being too alarmist. Here, as elsewhere in the world, there is no blanket ban. In Italy, silicone implants can be used so long as they are of the 'double-chamber' variety, which offer a safety net against silicone leaks.

"There is a difference of opinion between the Europeans and Americans on the danger of using silicone breast implants," said Dr. Maurizio Valeriani, a leading Rome plastic surgeon and consultant at the Italian capital's San Giovanni Hospital. "The verdict of the Italian Plastic Surgery Association — and my own experience — is that liquid silicone can only cause chronic inflammation if the implant ruptures, and that is extremely unlikely because a double-chamber implant can withstand very violent im-

pacts."

European doctors say there is no evidence that silicone implants have ever caused cancer in a patient. And they point to the use of the substance in other fields of medicine. Silicone is used to coat the pacemaker machine that regulates the heart-beat of thousands of people worldwide.

Even so, the trend is for doctors to fit implants made of other materials currently appearing on the market. One of these is made of polyvinyl, also a synthetic substance but one that has the advantage of being eliminated in the urine should the implant rupture. Another uses a saline solution instead of silicone. "It's very safe, but it's less similar to a real breast and less natural to the touch," said Dr. Valeriani.

Dr. Valeriani uses both these products in preference to silicone, mainly to set his patient's minds at rest, he says. "I believe that the future is with these and other new materials," he said. "It's not that silicone has ever caused any problems, but now the negative message it gives to the patient is such that it can create a psychological tension which it is best to avoid" — World News Link.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

OYEZ! OH, NO!

By Raymond Hamel

ACROSS

- 1 Played a part
- 2 Bitchy land
- 3 One (never)
- 4 Short (5)
- 5 River carrier
- 6 Captain
- 7 Giant hunter of myth
- 8 Inventor's lens
- 9 Legal paper
- 10 Printer's type size
- 11 Florida city
- 12 Come out of the
- 13 Sordid handle
- 14 (suspense)
- 15 Small — (be)
- 16 Filly material
- 17 Amo. area
- 18 Kind of pewar

DOWN

- 1 Rhythmic scheme
- 2 Consistent
- 3 Sogum
- 4 Bde leader
- 5 Author of "Robinson Crusoe"
- 6 Having the most
- 7 Very much
- 8 Fill with glue
- 9 — Your
- 10 Houses
- 11 (Anderson play)
- 12 To —
- 13 Scenes of action
- 14 Color, old style
- 15 Break
- 16 Go on — tank
- 17 Unmoved
- 18 City near Leipzig

Diagramless 19 x 19, By Harold H. Conant

ACROSS

- 1 Withstand stress
- 2 Type of palm
- 3 Indirect
- 4 References
- 5 Cien
- 6 Hunting dog
- 7 He Adams et al.
- 8 Author Mark
- 9 Corn units
- 10 Dile
- 11 Put on
- 12 Laugh sounds

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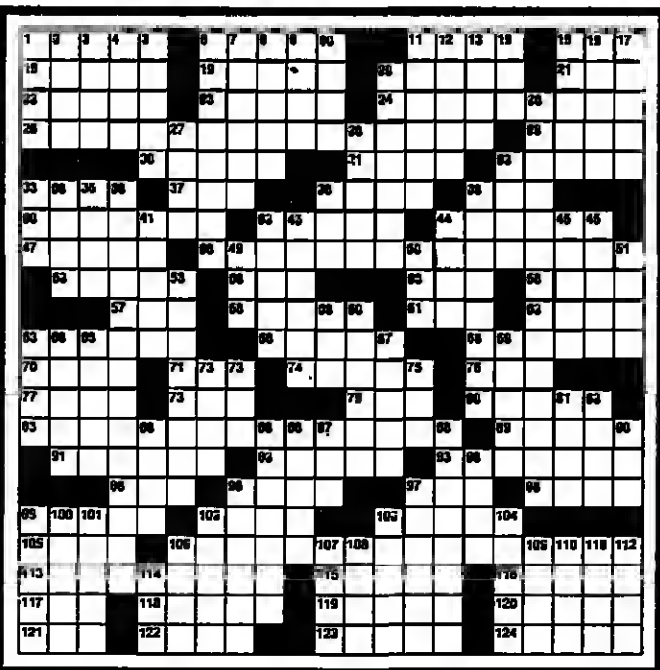
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- 11 Table scrap
- 12 Father and
- 13 Jennings

ACROSS

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DOWN

- 17 "Selling to" Byzantium poet
- 18 Work
- 19 Collects from
- 20 The penit
- 21 Car shift
- 22 Can. resort town
- 23 Fish story teller
- 24 — long
- 25 — Olson
- 26 Easi's wife
- 27 Stealing a music holder?
- 28 Pub serving
- 29 Having a spire
- 30 Thinks, Pierre
- 31 Daniel Webster's opponent
- 32 Island, NY
- 33 Devoiced
- 34 End of fatten or diger
- 35 Having the lead
- 36 Legal matter
- 37 Used for ocean travel
- 38 Certain hockey
- 39 Salt line
- 40 City near Milan
- 41 Of morning prayer
- 42 Three wise men
- 43 Certain musician
- 44 Walk unsteadily
- 45 Hardwood
- 46 Tails
- 47 Fathers
- 48 Buzzi and Gordon
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- 95 City near Milan
- 96 Of morning prayer
- 97 Three wise men
- 98 Certain musician
- 99 Walk unsteadily
- 100 Hardwood

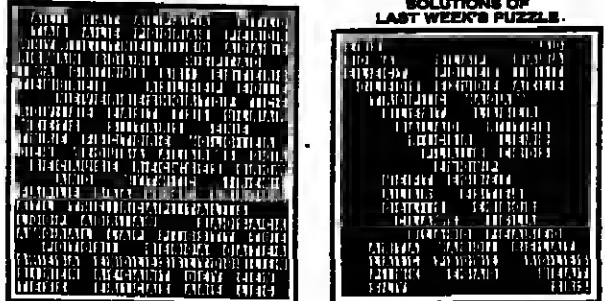


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Old-timer from North Carolina remembers the days of yore at Coney Island beach.
2. Uncooth manners found no place during the primitive age of chivalry or any age since then.
3. Could one call a devastating earthquake quite a great earthshaking event?
4. New airline ad reads: "Wing it, lads and lassies! It's the Wright thing to do!"

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. DISPLAYMPLAYX JEPT UKH AYMLT TUPI
UP DIATMPLPS UKB JCES UPGS KI
XDJEKA. —By Lois H. Jones
2. OH PERA GUYZ, CHRISYA E CUP XUTZ,
EIQVEGOW AUZYHJA, XOHM AOH AYUCHA
EMH OHJ IVQH CECW BUZYCHA HREZHM. —By Rita Salvato
3. SLEIH HURG OTIR ESK URG YUNG EG
ONZKY KIKSLEVIGBICGZT
VITONZBEUG. —By Barbara J. Rugg
4. TUR UNJEDENDOK U:OPAENOP READS:
SDOF ZAAO SNOEK KAAZNO TOUF PTFE
JTJZE. —By Eugene T. Malenka



This five-pronged needle blasts fatty treatments are usually sufficient to get rid of the problem.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

had taken so far on settlements was enough for the Arabs.

"What has been offered still needs much more to persuade Arab countries to go much more quickly and more vigorously into the peace process," he said.

But he added: "Do you expect the man to do miracles in one week? We should not be in a hurry. One week is not enough... please give him time."

Mr. Baker was asked whether the Arab response to Mr. Rabin's initiatives had been adequate.

"I hope you will see after the parties get together again at the table some concrete progress," he said.

"The results and momentum are only going to be produced by the parties themselves sitting down at the table. But I am very optimistic that we have an opportunity to see that happens."

REFCO

(Continued from page 1)

cent), has been losing since 1986 and that its retained earnings as of end of 1990 were in the negative by JD95,016.

A third company, the National Development and Finance Corporation, has merged with the Arab Finance Corporation to form the Union Bank for Savings and Investment. The Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment, which was also

set up in 1982 to deal in construction of housing, commercial centres, offices and warehouses, lost steadily from 1986 until 1990, the last year for which official figures are available. Its retained earnings were in the negative by JD1,497,736 at the end of 1990 against an authorised and paid-in capital of JD3 million and shareholders' equity of JD1.5 million.

Israeli pledge

(Continued from page 1)

"From what we understood from the secretary, it seems there is a willingness on behalf of Israel to stop the delays and go ahead seriously with the negotiations to achieve just

and lasting peace in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," added the Jordanian official. The Jordanian official said Mr. Baker did not ask Amman for any confidence-building measures such as supporting an end to an Arab economic boycott of Israel in return for Israel's pledge to freeze new building contracts in the occupied territories. "We did not talk about confidence

building. We have nothing to contribute to that now," he said. King Hussein Tuesday declined to say whether he would back such measures and said it would be up to the Arab League to discuss issues such as ending the 44-year-old boycott.

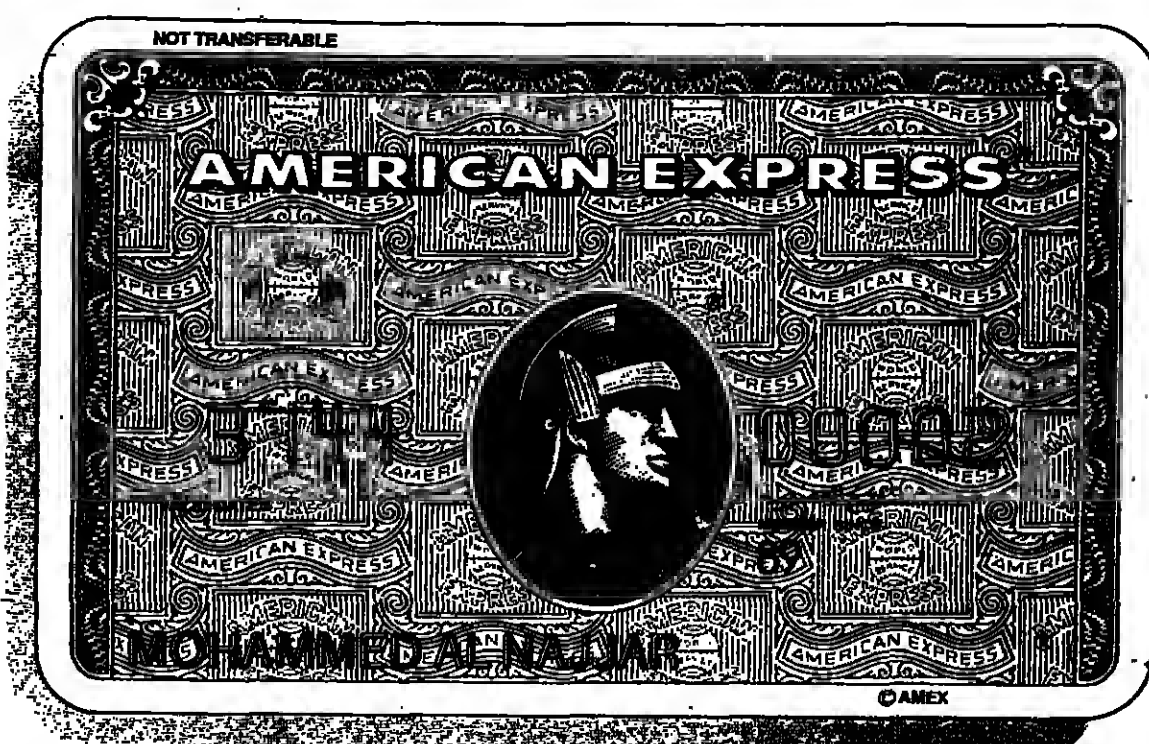
Meanwhile, Jordan denied an Israeli press report on Tuesday that King Hussein held secret talks in

London with the Jewish state's chief negotiator with the Jordanian-Palestinian peace team.

"Of course it's not true," a palace official told Reuters, adding there would be no public statement.

The office of negotiator Eliyahu Rubinstein, who is also Israel's cabinet secretary, declined comment on the story in the leftist Al Hamishmar newspaper.

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Bye-elections

(Continued from page 1)

day. Local political observers believe that the polarisation of candidates will work in the Brotherhood's favour as it did in the 1989 elections.

"The Brotherhood's supporters are a fixed number and thus as long as their candidate gets more votes than any other single candidate they will win," said one observer.

The "fixed number" is some 6,500 in Madaba and 4,300 in the Fourth District, judging from the election results of 1989.

Thus analysts say other candidates stand a good chance of winning the seats provided they are not too many of them.

"One of our problems is that we don't have primaries," observed one Abu Ghannam supporter.

Madaba has some 6,000 Jordanian voters and some 3,000 Jordanians of Palestinian origin; the rest are East Bank Jordanian Muslims almost all of whom have tribal affiliations. The tribe to which Mr. Shakhaneh belongs has 9,000 members, according to family members.

In the Fourth District four tribally-affiliated candidates were in the running as of Wednesday.

Two members of the Al Hadid clan, Anwar Hadid and Deifallah Hadid, have announced their candidacies. They are joined by Muhammad Shobaki and Salman Dabab, both members of major tribes in the district.

Observers note that if the Brotherhood chooses to field a candidate in the district the political balance could be changed from tribal to Islamic.

"If the Brotherhood fields a member of a popular tribe who is also with the Brotherhood or at least Islamist, then he would have the greatest chance of winning," said an observer in Qweisneh.

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

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Athletes start to arrive in Barcelona; excitement grows

BARCELONA (AP) — Forget Elvis. Cobi is everywhere.

The mascot of the summer games is the surest — and most frequent — sign of the impending Olympiad. It appears on everything in Barcelona from T-shirts to trash bags to a blimp. While the cute little critter was in the spotlight, his day in the warm Mediterranean sun is almost over. Athletes are arriving — more than 1,200 Tuesday alone, from Ghana to Great Britain, were due in town throughout the day.

South Africa is here for the first time in 32 years. Its delegation of 97 athletes and 33 officials arrived Tuesday. Left off the roster was U.S.-born javelin thrower Tom Petranoff, who recently became a South African citizen.

Petranoff was opposed by black members of the team because of his participation in a 1989 tour of the country at a time there was an international sports boycott over apartheid.

The U.S. basketball "dream team" warmed up Tuesday against France in Monte Carlo. It opens gold medal run Sunday

against Angola. Not exactly a powerhouse.

That gives Michael Jordan and co. four days off, but many of the gold-medal hopefuls wouldn't mind getting things under way right now. Opening ceremonies for the games, the first to come off without a boycott since 1972, are set for Saturday.

"I'm sick of running in the morning and training and going to the gym and sparring and weighing in at camp. The next time I want to weigh in, I want to go out and beat somebody in the ring," said U.S. boxer Vernon Forrest.

The home team of Spain is looking forward to entertaining its countrymen by collecting as many medals as possible. "This is going to be the Olympiad of Spanish boxing," promised fighter Sergio Fernandez Torres.

Among the athletes are 17 world record holders, including Ukrainian pole-vaulter Sergei Bubka. Cuban high-jumper Javier Sotomayor and U.S. heptathlete Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

One of those record-holders was at it again Tuesday in the final Olympic track warm-up.

Mike Powell of the U.S. delivered the farthest long jump ever — 8.99 metres (29 feet 6 inches, 3.81 centimetres) (1.3 inches) longer than the world record he set at the world championships last year.

The record, along with a 7.63-metre (25 0 1/2) jump by Heike Drechsler of Germany, will not count because it was wind-aided.

A number of Yugoslav athletes found out Tuesday they won't be coming at all. The United Nations Security Council committee approved the participation of individual Yugoslav athletes, but turned thumbs down on team competition as a violation of U.N. sanctions against the country.

Translation: About 80 of the 118 Yugoslav athletes — including its water polo team, the defending gold medalists — won't compete at Barcelona.

There were many signs of the coming excitement. You can't walk a block without running into one of the 16,076 folks in town with Olympic credentials — about 40 per cent of the total figure expected by Saturday's torch-lighting.

Look for body checks with a twist at the 2002 games. The IOC voted Tuesday to make women's ice hockey a medal event 10 years down the road. The governing body also approved medals in men's and women's curling for the same year.

Both sports could debut in the medals category four years earlier if they're approved by organisers in Nagano, Japan, the site of the 1998 games.

Also added to the winter medal-chase were freestyle skiing aerials and two new short-track speedskating events — the men's 500 metres and the women's 1,000 metres.

Those three will begin two years from now in Lillehammer, Norway.

Al Ramtha goal-keeper hospitalised

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ramtha's goalkeeper, Ahmad Abu Nasouh, is currently recuperating from a kidney injury he sustained last week during Al Ramtha's match against Al Arabi which Al Ramtha won 5-1 to regain their lead in soccer's first division standings.

Ahu Nasouh is in Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and doctors say he is making a speedy recovery and would be back in shape soon.

Kuala Lumpur to host Commonwealth Games

BARCELONA (AP) — Australia wasn't happy when it lost out to Atlanta to host the 1986 Olympics. Losing to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the 1998 Commonwealth Games really hurt.

"The basic criterion should be: Can the country do the job right?" Adelaide, Australia, Mayor Steve Condos said Tuesday when the Commonwealth Games Association announced the selection.

"If that were the criterion, I'd be over-confident Adelaide would win it. Unfortunately, that is not the case... It was a total political exercise."

"I don't mind being beaten by a country that puts on a better show than us, he said. "But that's not what happened here."

Losing by a 40-25 vote of countries that are members of the British Commonwealth, it was the second major disappointment in two years for Australia, which had Melbourne bid and lose for the 1996 Olympics.

In 1990, Australia led the criticism of the IOC, claiming it "sold out" the games

OLYMPIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Pieterse to run in Olympics

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Zola Pieterse will compete in the 3,000-metre run at the Barcelona Olympics despite a health scare that almost caused her to withdraw, her manager said. Pieterse, formerly known as Zola Budd, drew worldwide attention in 1984 when she left South Africa so she could compete in the Los Angeles Olympics under a British passport and avoid a sports moratorium to protest apartheid. Her times in 1991 were world class. However, she has failed to match those times this year and underwent medical tests last week in England out of fear she had a physical ailment. Her manager, Brian Levine, said Tuesday night that after the medical tests and vitamin treatments Monday, Pieterse felt better and planned to run in Barcelona.

Becker tones down Olympic remarks

BARCELONA (R) — Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker has soothed the ruffled feathers of his Olympic teammates after a row over his remarks that he was coming to Barcelona only to bask in the games' atmosphere. "Every sportsman dreams of playing once at the Olympics," Becker said in an interview published in the German magazine Stern. "I now have this chance and I am going to grab it gratefully." Becker had upset fellow members of the German Olympic squad by saying in a previous magazine interview that he was more interested in having coffee with other famous names like Carl Lewis than in winning medals for his country. But Becker told Stern: "I will live in the Athletes' Village and I will march as one of the German team by the opening ceremony. That is what will give me the most pleasure."

Man bares all for Olympic torch

VALENCIA (R) — An exhibitionist stripped off and bared all as crowds in Valencia welcomed the Olympic torch on its way to the Barcelona Games. Police said the 28-year-old man, a habitual offender who had been caught 13 times before, was arrested for "exhibitionism and gesticulating with his genitals." He resisted arrest until being forcibly detained and taken away for questioning.

Princess Anne rules out IOC presidency

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Anne has ruled out taking over from Spain's Juan Antonio Samaranch as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). In an interview with the Times newspaper, the princess said Mr. Samaranch had turned the post into a full time job since he took over from Lord Killanin in 1980. "That is the number one reason why there is no way I would ever contemplate my name being put forward," she said. "It does require a great deal of time and I simply could not envisage myself doing it." The princess, 42, is president of the International Equestrian Federation and the British Olympic Association as well as being a member of the IOC. She denied speculation there was a campaign to push her forward for the post of IOC president, when Mr. Samaranch's term of office ends next year.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 24, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Liberalizing yourself from obligations and responsibilities from the past while organizing your future brings more efficiency and comfort to your busy everyday life. Keep tactful.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Messages from after and near bring a new set of conditions but later you are able to get into the factual results required at your outside interests.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You see ways to utilize a practical condition in the morning so your business affairs will be in better shape, then tonight study new ways to get ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be direct with a partner in changes you would like to make in your association, then you will be able to spend tonight getting into practical aspects of these.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Many tasks can be quickly finished in the morning by concentrated application while tonight you can get off and do what you have agreed.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider new pleasures or ways to enjoy usual ones during the morning but then after noon through tonight get into the various tasks awaiting your attention.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Avoid doing anything at home this morning that could cause any

friction while tonight you can decide the relationship you want to exist with your mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) You have many calls of all types to return so get them done in the morning while tonight you will be able to handle material concerns at home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look for ways to efficiently handle a long standing obligation in the morning then you can get out and uncover data you need for a new attack for success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You own affairs of a personal nature require much attention this morning while tonight you are able to get into ways and means to have greater abundance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are some changes required in an annoying situation after which you can use your charm and ingenuity to get the things you most desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a morning to avoid a dispute between mate and a close comrade then you will be able to get into your own practical problems and solve them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do to increase accord between family and outsiders before you spend your time enjoying good friends, interesting acquaintances.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BEST COMPUTER BRIDGE PROGRAM YET

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 8 8 3
♥ A Q J 9
♦ 6 2
♣ 8 8 5 5

WEST
♠ J 9 4
♥ 7 4 8
♦ A 10 9
♣ Q J 10

EAST
♠ Q 10 7 2
♥ 8
♦ J 7 4
♣ K 9 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 5
♥ K 10 8 5 2
♦ K 8 5 5
♣ A

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠

So far, computers are no substitute for human brainpower—the computer can't reason. That's why, although there are sophisticated computerized chess games because the computer simply projects from a pure position where all the facts are known, no good "bridge play" program has yet been developed. But Base III, written by Fred Gitelman and Shari Weinstein (Available from MicroNational Inc., 3 Electronics Ave., Danvers, Mass. 01923, \$199 plus \$10 shipping and handling. Needs 640K RAM), does just about everything else.

Enter any double dummy problem of 13 cards or fewer, and odds are the computer will come up with the right solution. Supply it with a suit combination, and the computer will give you the best line. Offer it a choice of lines, and it will provide you with the odds on each. Enter a collection of hands you played in a tournament, then study and analyze them at your leisure.

Take this hand. Playing in four hearts, declarer won the opening lead in hand, crossed to dummy with a trump and led a diamond to the king and ace. East exited with a trump, won declarer's diamond continuation and led another trump. Declarer was able to ruff a diamond on the table, but ended up losing three diamonds and a spade—down one.

Base III shows that, had declarer needed 11 tricks, this was the correct line. But since only 10 tricks were required to fulfill the contract, declarer had not taken advantage of the fact he had dodged an initial trump lead.

The winning line is to lead a diamond away from the king at trick two. The defenders can win and switch to a trump, and lead another trump when they regain the lead in diamonds. But there are still two trumps left in dummy with which to ruff two diamonds, and declarer loses only a spade and two diamonds.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 23, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As certain communications cause you to wonder if you are doing the right thing you will need to double check your comment and writing. Your high energy helps you find the clarifications.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider what new elements in your life, whether persons or conditions can be the best means for advancement and put them quickly into effect.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a point of showing more romantic fervor in your dealing with the one you love the most and you quickly find more affection in being yours.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get a straight shooting associate in give you some very valuable suggestions and support if you confine yourself to what that person advises.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to get busy at the very materialistic phase of your talents but they should be very creative and cover much scope of action.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are all stirred up in have a good time at some new outlet or recreation in which you have not engaged before this so do make specific arrangement.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever is going on at your home can be constructive if it is

something you have not tried before and has some vision connected with it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) A broad minded and magnanimous friend can give you very valuable advice just what to do in order to handle a long standing opportunity that has been dormant.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your best approach at outside vocational activity can be the means for adding to your income and assets by thinking in bigger terms.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your desire now is to be off and away to some fascinating interests unknown to you before this which is very good if you channel your time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Try today to get some problem affair of the one who mean the most to you on a more rational basis but do so in a confidential manner for best results.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An outside partner sees how you and a friend can be more productive with some venture that you are both eager to make a howling success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A tiresome situation at home that seems interminable has a good chance of being rightly resolved now by discussing it with family and an expert.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Thousands of bugs are raising families in our grass. The lawn mower would wake the babies!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

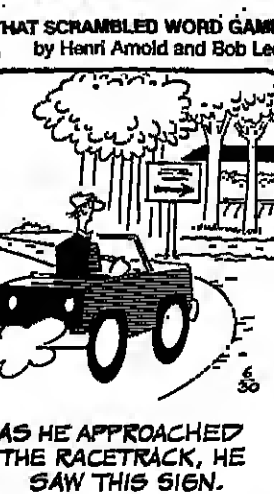
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TURET

FLECT

REBOFE

NERGEE



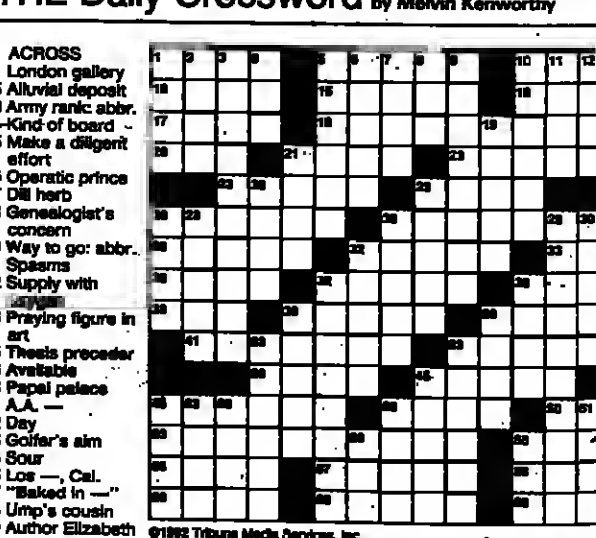
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O O O O FOR THE O O O O O O O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumbles: MAIZE WOMEN USEFUL KIDNAP

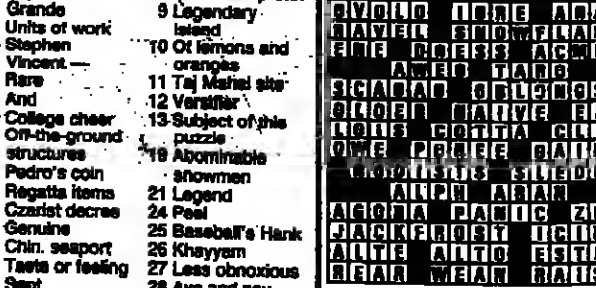
Answer: How the whole world learned that the plumbing in that government building needed to be repaired—IT WAS "LEAKED"

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthy



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



DOWN
1 Ruler of old
2 Family circle member
3 Arbutus
4 Salsander
5 Spill out
6 Precise

40 "war"
42 Disent
43 Renier
45 Consecrate
46 Old promenade
47 Staff
48 Ct. planes

49 example
51 Speed enters
52 Sacred
54 Small guitar
55 Before fix or pare

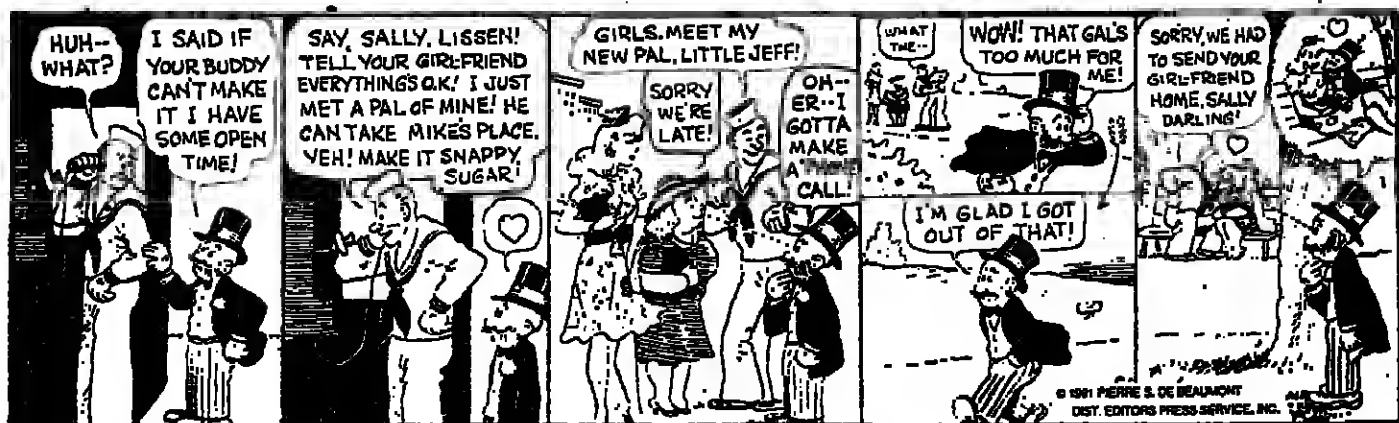
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



الرياضيات

Financial
Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 22/7/92	TOKYO CLOSE 22/7/92
sterling Pound	1.9095	1.9165
Deutsche Mark	3.4665	1.4795
Swiss Franc	1.5254	1.5110
French Franc	5.0225	5.0255**
Japanese Yen	125.10	125.42
European Currency Unit	1.5725	1.5682**

* For 100 Yen
** European opening at 8:00 a.m. local time

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.23	5.57	5.30	5.73
sterling Pound	10.12	10.12	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.73	9.75	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.69	8.75	8.75	8.68
French Franc	10.12	10.18	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.50	4.40	4.13	4.09
European Currency Unit	10.93	10.93	10.93	10.87

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.23	5.57	5.30	5.73
sterling Pound	10.12	10.12	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.73	9.75	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.69	8.75	8.75	8.68
French Franc	10.12	10.18	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.50	4.40	4.13	4.09
European Currency Unit	10.93	10.93	10.93	10.87

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.23	5.57	5.30	5.73
sterling Pound	10.12	10.12	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.73	9.75	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.69	8.75	8.75	8.68
French Franc	10.12	10.18	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.50	4.40	4.13	4.09
European Currency Unit	10.93	10.93	10.93	10.87

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.23	5.57	5.30	5.73
sterling Pound	10.12	10.12	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.73	9.75	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.69	8.75	8.75	8.68
French Franc	10.12	10.18	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.50	4.40	4.13	4.09
European Currency Unit	10.93	10.93	10.93	10.87

Index	21/7/92	20/7/92
ALL-Share	140.82	141.09
Banking Sector	105.52	105.34
Insurance Sector	130.33	130.28
Industry Sector	192.95	193.61
Services Sector	178.66	179.14

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9025/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1896/1901	Canadian dollar
	1.4905/15	Deutsche mark
	1.6795/05	Dutch guilder
	1.3200/10	Swiss franc
	30.68/72	Belgian franc
	5.0300/50	French franc
	1132/1133	Italian lire
	126.47/52	Japanese yen
	5.4200/50	Swedish crown
	5.8650/8700	Norwegian crown
	5.7430/80	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	\$357.20/\$37.70	

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

TRADING HOURS: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
CLOSING PRICE: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
CLOSING PRICE: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING HOURS	CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE
JORDAN BANK	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	1.9025/35	1.9025/35
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	1.1896/1901	1.1896/1901
JORDAN BANK FOR COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	1.4905/15	1.4905/15
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	1.6795/05	1.6795/05
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	1.3200/10	1.3200/10
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	30.68/72	30.68/72
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	5.0300/50	5.0300/50
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	1132/1133	1132/1133
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	126.47/52	126.47/52
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	5.4200/50	5.4200/50
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	5.8650/8700	5.8650/8700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	5.7430/80	5.7430/80
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADING	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	\$357.20/\$37.70	\$357.20/\$37.70

Kuwait National Council demands jobs for all

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's partially elected National Council passed a resolution Tuesday demanding government jobs for all educated Kuwaiti citizens.

"The members affirmed the need to find suitable jobs for all Kuwaitis applying for work in various state departments and institutions," the official KUNA news agency said. Most working Kuwaitis are employed in the state sector.

The resolution needs cabinet approval to be binding.

The emirate has used its oil wealth to set up an extensive welfare state, with a range of allowances and free education and health services. During the Gulf war, the government paid the hotel bills of citizens outside the country.

Baker set to move to White House

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush may soon get a little help from his friend James Baker with his flagging re-election campaign.

Mr. Baker is poised to leave his post as secretary of state some time next month to return to the White House as Mr. Bush's chief policy adviser and campaign coordinator. White House officials and Bush campaign aides said Tuesday.

Republican sources expect Mr. Baker to resign or take a leave of absence from the State Department to become a special counselor to Mr. Bush to chart an agenda for a second term.

Mr. Baker, a long-time close friend of Mr. Bush who ran his 1988 presidential campaign, will "shape our agenda for the second term and help Mr. Bush get his message across," a senior administration official said.

"Bush in his gut knows the campaign is not going as it should," he said.

A White House spokeswoman Tuesday night declined to confirm or deny that Mr. Baker was about to change jobs.

Both men spent a few days together last week on a fishing trip at Mr. Baker's ranch in Wyoming and refused to rule out the possibility of a job switch for Mr. Baker.

Following last week's Democratic national Convention and the decision by Texas billionaire Ross Perot not to seek the presidency, Mr. Clinton jumped ahead of Mr. Bush in the polls.

A new Washington Post/ABC News poll had Mr. Clinton leading Mr. Bush by a 58-29 per cent margin, the largest recorded post-convention surge since 1964, when pollsters began tracking the popularity in the aftermath of conventions.

Mr. Clinton and running mate Al Gore capitalized on their new popularity, drawing enthusiastic crowds at numerous stops on a 1,000-mile (1,600 km) road trip that began in New York and finishes in St. Louis, Missouri, Wednesday.

Their last full day on the road ended with a late night rally Tuesday in Vandalia, Illinois, before their bus caravan wheeled to its last stop.

Crowds got bigger as the eight coaches rolled through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois since Friday, when the pair left New York City fresh from the convention that nominated them.

Mr. Clinton plans an overnight stop in the Arkansas capital of Little Rock Wednesday night and after that, it's on to Texas and the west coast.

On Tuesday Mr. Bush took a veiled swipe at Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary, saying the Nov. 3 presidential election represented a choice between "advocates of the liberal agenda" and his belief in traditional family values.

"They want public schools to hand out birth control pills and devices to teenage kids and they believe it's no business of the parents and that it's strictly a matter between our children and the government," Mr. Bush told a crowd outside the onion-domed Russian Orthodox Church in Garfield, New Jersey.

"They even encourage kids to hire lawyers and haul their parents into court," he added.

Mr. Clinton chaired the Children's Defense Fund, an advocacy group for children, and is longtime advocate of children's rights.

"The only way he (Bush), can win is to attack Clinton and make false charges," Clinton spokeswoman Dee Myers said. "The truth is, Republicans talk about family values but their policies don't value families."

Earlier Tuesday the Clinton-Gore caravan rolled across Vice President Dan Quayle's home state Indiana, attacking Mr. Bush's economic record and contrasting Mr. Quayle with Mr. Gore.

"My answer to you (Bush) is this: This administration has the worst economic record since Herbert Hoover," Mr. Clinton said, referring to the Republican president blamed by many for prolonging the great depression.

Although a recent poll found that nearly half of registered voters surveyed thought that Mr. Quayle should be dumped from the Republican ticket, the White House said it would not happen.

"He'll be on the ticket," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told Reuters Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Tuesday was the last day of work for most of Mr. Perot's remaining staff, leaving only a handful of mournful aides to shut down what was once a poll-leading presidential campaign.

Heavy fighting rages in Sarajevo, Gorazde

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — U.N. peacekeepers near Sarajevo Airport came under fire early Wednesday, and defenders of the besieged town of Gorazde appealed to the world to hear the cries of the wounded.

U.N. spokesman Mik Magnusson told reporters the attack on the encampment of about 350 Canadian peacekeepers came at 1:30 a.m. (2330 GMT) and lasted an hour and 15 minutes. In addition to heavy small-arms fire, the camp took mortar hits, causing damage but no casualties, he said.

Maj. Gen. Lewis MacKenzie, the U.N. commander in Sarajevo, said continued fighting could threaten the international aid effort.

"The thread is getting very thin that's holding this together," he told reporters.

Artillery, anti-aircraft guns, mortars and small arms opened up in heavy fighting overnight in three suburbs near the airport — Dobrinja, Ilidza and Butmir — as well as near the city centre. Fighting subsided in downtown Sarajevo after daybreak, but there was no word whether battles were continuing in the suburbs.

Relief flights to the embattled Bosnian capital — halted all day Monday and briefly Tuesday by fighting — were continuing. Between 10 and 15 flights were scheduled Wednesday.

Gorazde, a city in eastern Bosnia that's been under Serb siege for weeks, experienced one of the heaviest bombardments of the war, Croatian Radio reported. Over 500 tank shells and mortar rounds fell on the town in one hour, it said.

Quoting first-aid officials there, Croatian Radio reported at least 50 dead and many wounded. On Tuesday, Bosnian defence officials asserted that 70 civilians had died in Gorazde over the previous 24 hours.

Gorazde's defenders appealed for international help.

"The town has been without water, electricity, food, medicines or doctors for months," said the appeal, carried by the official Bosnian News Agency, BH press.

"The Serb bombardment has resulted in huge numbers of dead who are being buried in the parks and gardens at night," the message was addressed to Lord Carrington, the European Community's chief negotiator on Yugoslavia; French Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner, and UNICEF.

"The wounded are being operated on without any anesthesia, in the open, using the most primitive instruments," it said. "Their cries can be heard everywhere. Can you hear them too?"

Tens of thousands of predominantly Muslim refugees from the area are holed up with about 20,000 inhabitants of the ethnically mixed town some 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of Sarajevo.

Gen. MacKenzie despaired at the continued fighting, raging after a ceasefire failed to take hold Sunday.

"God protect us from cease-fires," he said. "It seems whenever we have a ceasefire the level of fighting goes up."

At least 7,500 people have died since majority Muslims and Croats voted on Feb. 29 for independence. Some Bosnian officials speak of over 40,000 killed. About 1.3 million have fled the fighting.

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They said she should be acquitted of criminal trespassing because the act she committed was an attempt to stop violation of a greater law — murder. "She sees through her heart. Her inner voice tells her that the premature termination of pregnancy by surgical procedure terminates life," the judge wrote. "By intuition, she maintains that it can also cause great psychological harm to the woman, the father of the baby, the grandparents and brothers and sisters involved."

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He said he wanted to sleep and when Ms. Kistler persisted, she said, he pushed her to the floor and began slapping her. She told police he threw her into another room, causing her to hit her head and cut an ankle. Ms. Kistler then called police, who said she had bruises and cuts but refused medical treatment.

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Even whether the cases seen so far are a cause for alarm is unclear.

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from usually harmless germs. Doctors comparing notes Tuesday at the eighth international conference on AIDS said they have seen at least two dozen cases of the disease.

Some, such as James Curran, head of AIDS work at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, questioned whether the cases are caused by a microbe or are even connected to each other in any way.

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"It's easy to slip into an AIDS mentality. We are at an AIDS conference. But this is not AIDS," he said.

However, Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, a co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, said he has seen two cases of the mystery illness and believes they

are caused by a mutant form of HIV.

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He speculated that their disease was caused by a mutant form of the AIDS virus that perhaps had changed its outer skin so it looked different to the body's immune surveillance system.

No matter what the disease is, it's uncommon, Dr. Curran said. During the past two to three years, the CDC has learned of six cases of the illness. Over that same time, about 100,000 cases of AIDS were reported in the United States.

However, during the course of one session at the AIDS meeting, the known number of cases doubled, as scientists rose from the floor to describe cases they had seen. More are sure of come to light, especially since Dr. Curran is urging doctors to inform the CDC of any they find.

"It's apparently rare, but we are not sure just how rare," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of U.S. Federal AIDS Research.

Researchers speculated that the cases seen so far could result from blood cancer, a contagious organism or something in the environment, among other things.

Researchers said that many, but not all, of the victims have been homosexual men and others who are at high risk of AIDS. If the illness turns out to be caused by some undetectable

form of the AIDS virus, it could complicate the job of keeping blood safe for transfusions.

However, Dr. James Allen, who coordinates AIDS programs at the U.S. Public Health Service, said there is no reason to fear that the blood supply is contaminated.

"People should not be afraid to get a transfusion if they need it," Dr. Allen said. "The blood supply has never been safer."

Meanwhile, British scientists said Tuesday they had discovered a compound that is 3,000 times more active and has fewer side effects than the leading AIDS drug AZT.

The compound is particularly effective in areas where AZT is weak and could signal a major advance in treating many people with the AIDS virus, said Christopher McGuigan of Southampton University.

World News in Brief

Rome backs police chief under attack

ROME (R) — Italy's embattled police chief offered to resign over the car bomb murder of an anti-mafia judge and his five bodyguards but the government backed him Wednesday and urged him to stay on. Parliament was moving swiftly to convert into a law an emergency decree giving police sweeping powers to fight the mafia, including searches without warrants. An Interior Ministry statement said the government had "full confidence" in Police Commissioner Vincenzo Parisi, the main target of criticism that Sunday's car bomb attack that killed Judge Paolo Borsellino could have been prevented. The statement said the commissioner had offered his resignation several times since the blast, although he himself told Italian Radio he would not resign. According to the statement, Mr. Parisi last offered to resign Tuesday night, hours after he returned to Rome from the funeral for the five bodyguards where he was bundled out of Palermo cathedral to avoid demonstrators.

'Star Wars' laser weapon cancelled

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Energy Department cancelled the final scheduled test of the nuclear powered X-ray laser last week, closing another chapter in the weapon programme's slow demise, the New York Times said. It said Energy Secretary James Watkins cancelled the classified test in line with the Bush administration's new policy of limiting nuclear testing to improving the safety and reliability of existing weapons. Tens of millions of dollars had been spent on the test, which had been planned for years and was preceded by several preliminary tests, the Times said. The X-ray laser was proposed by scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and was designed to be launched into space in the event of a Soviet missile attack.

Foreign arms sales down worldwide

WASHINGTON (AP) — The major weapons suppliers around the world sold 40 per cent fewer weapons to the Third World last year, a congressional report said. The United States is still selling more than any other country but after record arms sales in 1990, the value of U.S. arms transfers dropped 22 per cent, said the congressional research service report. Sales by China and France were reported down by 87 per cent respectively as the end of the cold war, the aftermath of the Gulf War and the breakup of the Soviet Union dramatically altered world arms markets. The now-defunct Soviet Union had a 55 per cent decline in arms sales to the Third World last year but continued to rank second, the report said. The report defines the Third World as all countries except the United States, Europe, the former Soviet Union, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Yeltsin warns about corruption

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has attacked Russia's Ministry of Defence, ordering it to clamp down on corruption and stop the sale of army property. Mr. Yeltsin's press aide Vyacheslav Kostikov said the president told a meeting of regional military chiefs in the Kremlin that he criticised the ministry in "sharp terms." Mr. Kostikov hinted some officials could be removed, but did not elaborate. "Is the Ministry of Defence capable of establishing order in its finances?" he quoted Mr. Yeltsin as asking during the 90-minute meeting. Mr. Yeltsin has said several times in the last month that Russia need not fear a coup by the military. But the president is keenly aware that discontent is high over poor living conditions, corruption and imminent cutbacks in the army.

Killer executed in Florida

STARKE, Florida (AP) — A triple killer who missed an earlier execution date by just two hours was put to death in Florida's electric chair after asking the father of one of his victims for forgiveness. Edward Dean Kennedy, described by a religious adviser as being at peace with himself, was led into the gray execution chamber shortly before 7 a.m. (1100 GMT). Prison superintendent Everett Perrin nodded to the black-hooded anonymous executioner and 2,000 volts of electricity was sent through Kennedy's body.



A Bosnian fighter visits a friend's grave in Sarajevo's military cemetery

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The Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Rai are offering a new home delivery service to different parts of the capital, starting first with the areas of Shmeisani, Abdoun and Umm Utheina.